United Nations S PV.6203

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6203rd meeting

Friday, 16 October 2009, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Le Luong Minh	(Viet Nam)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Koudougou
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Costa Rica	Mr. Urbina
	Croatia	Mr. Vilović
	France	Mr. Araud
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Dabbashi
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Russian Federation	Mr. Shcherbak
	Turkey	Mr. Apakan
	Uganda	Mr. Rugunda
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Sir John Sawers
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Twenty-ninth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2009/472)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

09-56206 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Expression of farewell to Sir John Sawers, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations

The President: I have been informed that our respected colleague Sir John Sawers, Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, is today attending a meeting of the Security Council for the last time before he leaves for a new assignment. I want to take this opportunity to express to him, on behalf of the members of the Council, our appreciation of him both as a colleague and as a friend.

From the time Ambassador Sawers took up his present position in the summer of 2007, he has made a valuable contribution to the work of the Council. His vast diplomatic skill, demure manner and sense of collegiality have made him a highly effective and valued representative of his country. He will be remembered for many of his astute interventions and his willingness to rally the Council to consensus when it was most needed, as well as for his leadership of various segments of the Council's missions to Africa. In bidding Sir John a fond farewell, Council members and I wish him great success and fulfilment in his future endeavours. We are certain that he will keep an eye on the activities of the Council.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation concerning the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Twenty-ninth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (S/2009/472)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received a letter from the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in which he requests to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite that representative to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Ileka (Democratic Republic of the Congo) took a seat at the Council table.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Alan Doss, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Doss to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them the twenty-ninth report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which is contained in document S/2009/472.

At this meeting, members of the Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Alan Doss. I now give him the floor.

Mr. Doss (*spoke in French*): The report (S/2009/472) of the Secretary-General before the Security Council provides an assessment of the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the activities of the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC). Overall, the Forces armées de la République démocratique du Congo (FARDC) have made progress in their operations against foreign armed groups, and especially against the Forces démocratiques de libération du Rwanda (FDLR), which have been pushed out of most populated areas and now find themselves dispersed and weakened. The integration of Congolese armed groups is continuing. Displaced persons and refugees are in the process of returning to their homes. Nevertheless, serious risks and threats persist. We must not allow ourselves to become complacent.

The FDLR have been scattered, but they are not yet neutralized. Armed attacks are continuing in both Kivus and in Orientale province, where residual elements of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) are carrying out sporadic raids. The return of displaced persons and refugees after many years has led to ethnic tension and land disputes. Ongoing sexual violence poses an enormous challenge. The return of security has raised the hopes of the population, who now want to see a real peace dividend.

(*spoke in English*)

When I spoke to the Council a year ago, the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo was increasingly grave. We faced a security crisis of enormous dimensions following the resumption of hostilities with the Congrès national pour la défense du people (CNDP). A year on, there is now a real prospect that the conflicts that have for so long blighted the eastern Congo can be ended. There has been progress on a number of fronts.

FARDC operations in the Kivus and in Orientale province have significantly eroded the strike capacity and domination of the FDLR and the LRA. Since the beginning of the year, 1,126 FDLR combatants and 1,622 of their dependents have been repatriated by the MONUC team for disarmament, demobilization, reintegration and resettlement or repatriation. That is more than double the repatriation rate for the same period last year. An additional 11,383 Rwandan civilians, many of whom had been held hostage by the FDLR, have returned to Rwanda with the assistance of MONUC and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Two major figures wanted by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for their involvement in the Rwanda genocide have been arrested and transferred to Arusha. I do not believe that would have happened without the military pressure that we have brought to bear on the FDLR.

Most of the internally displaced persons who had been regrouped in camps on the outskirts of Goma as a consequence of the earlier conflict with the CNDP have returned home, although there is still a very high number of displaced people in North and South Kivu who are waiting for further improvements in the security situation before they go back to their villages. Significantly, more than 2,000 children have been separated from armed groups and the FARDC since the beginning of the year, with the help of MONUC and UNICEF.

The integration of the CNDP and other Congolese armed groups is approaching completion. Over 120 political prisoners were recently released and returned to the East, with MONUC's assistance. The stabilization programme is now moving into areas freed from the control of armed groups, opening the way for the return of State authority.

Despite those positive developments, I do not want to imply that the troubles of eastern Congo are a thing of the past. The fast-track integration of up to 20,000 elements of former armed groups, some with very bad human rights records, into the FARDC has aggravated existing problems of indiscipline. Civilians in remote areas continue to suffer reprisals from the FDLR. There have been new population displacements and human rights violations. There is still an appallingly high level of violence against women. Large numbers of people remain displaced and difficult to access, especially during periods of combat. The implementation of the 23 March agreements with the armed groups has been slower than we would have wished.

Looking ahead, we see several issues that must be addressed if the momentum generated by the agreements reached between the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda in December 2008 and the 23 March agreements with the armed groups is to be maintained.

First, the areas cleared of FDLR presence by the FARDC must be fully secured to ensure continuing protection for the population and to allow internally displaced persons to return home.

Secondly, major operations against the remaining FDLR strongholds should be completed as soon as possible, with proper regard for the protection of civilians.

Thirdly, in areas that have been secured, the stabilization effort must be accelerated, giving priority to the control of mining sites to deprive armed elements of revenue, and backed up by the deployment of armed police and the reconstruction of roads and administrative infrastructure.

Fourthly, non-military initiatives designed to encourage defections and surrenders among the

remaining FDLR combatants must be further intensified.

Finally, but most importantly, the discipline of the FARDC and the national police, which itself is a vital dimension of protection, requires constant attention to signal and ensure that impunity will not be accepted.

How will MONUC help to address these concerns? The Council has directed us to focus our attention on protection. We have identified protection hotspots. Last year, we launched mobile operating bases so that we could respond more flexibly to the rapidly changing military environment. MONUC military is now present in more than 50 different locations throughout the Kivus and in five locations in areas LRA-affected in North-East Democratic Republic of the Congo, principally in Orientale province.

The Council is aware that we have created joint protection teams, which have deployed into security-sensitive areas to assist the military and local authorities to analyse, anticipate and respond to specific threats against civilians. More than 50 joint protection missions have been launched in North and South Kivu, and we have started expanding this practice to the remaining areas of instability and vulnerability in Orientale province. Deployment of these missions is guided by a rapid response and early warning cell that draws on information from a variety of sources, including civil society and surveillance networks established by the military at the provincial level. I believe we have circulated a map to the members of the Council showing the dispersion of all of those mission bases throughout the two Kivus.

We are also using these mechanisms to monitor the performance of individual FARDC battalions and, as necessary, asking the military leadership of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to take corrective action when we see disciplinary problems. This will be the basis for any decision we may make on the necessity of withdrawing support if we see a blatant disregard for international humanitarian law.

President Kabila himself has now declared a zero-tolerance policy for acts of sexual and gender-based violence, and the Government is acting against looting, corruption and other undisciplined behaviour in the armed forces. The five commanders who were identified by the Security Council have all been removed from command and, we are assured, will be prosecuted. Two are already under arrest, two more have been put under house surveillance or arrest in Kinshasa, and the last one has absconded. The FARDC has established a military court for the Kivus, which has handed down more than 30 sentences to soldiers found guilty of serious crimes. High-level commanders have been relieved of their duties for misconduct.

The refurbishment of Ndolo military prison in Kinshasa is nearly complete and will enable us to transfer military prisoners — serious offenders — from the East to secure facilities in Kinshasa. MONUC itself is helping to establish prosecution support cells and joint investigation teams within the military to assist them to act more speedily in investigating and prosecuting serious crimes, including rape. Partner assistance in this initiative is critical.

I would like to underscore that we cannot make significant progress if we do not work on all of these areas simultaneously. We can arrest people and we can try them, but if they are not in secure facilities they can escape and return to do what they did before. So it is very important that we have this joint approach as we try to tackle the problem of impunity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

To underscore MONUC's full support for the President's zero-tolerance policy and to reinforce that policy, MONUC has told the Government that it will withdraw support from battalions that show a blatant disregard for international humanitarian law.

MONUC is the first mission in which the Force Commander has issued a specific directive on civilian protection to all contingents. Under that directive, MONUC Blue Helmets provide protection against attacks by the FDLR and other armed elements, patrol key routes to facilitate the safe delivery of humanitarian assistance, and indeed go well beyond those responsibilities. For example, on market days we provide armed escorts for thousands of villagers, in particular women, who wish to travel to market in safety, free of harassment and illegal taxation by armed groups.

All of these activities have been integrated into a comprehensive civilian protection strategy developed by MONUC, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the protection cluster.

Our protection efforts, however, are a daily exercise in managing scarce resources and, I must say,

making hard choices. The Council is well aware of the strain on MONUC's military and logistical assets. I therefore want to pay tribute to the contingents and civilian personnel who are working to project MONUC's presence into very demanding areas throughout the East.

In the past few weeks, the first elements of the additional 3,000 uniformed personnel authorized by the Council last year have begun to arrive in theatre and are being deployed exclusively in the East to further extend and reinforce our protection capacity. Another battalion is also being transferred from Kinshasa to Orientale province to backstop the operations against the LRA. With this transfer, only 500 United Nations troops will be left in the entire western area of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Unfortunately, the limited helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft capacity is still a huge constraint on our ability to quickly deploy and sustain MONUC forces in places where they are most needed. This is compounded, I might add, by our lack of tactical intelligence. We have yet to receive any support in that area, even though it was authorized by the Council a year ago.

Despite the efforts made by the FARDC and MONUC to improve and extend protection, it is obviously not possible to protect everyone, everywhere, all of the time in the Kivus, an area the size of California with a population of almost 10 million. So inevitably the question arises: Should Kimia II be halted?

Some observers have suggested that Kimia II operations should be suspended in order to give the FARDC time to get its house in order and improve discipline. We believe, however, that reducing the pressure now would give the FDLR time to regroup and rearm. It would also send an ambiguous message to some elements of the FARDC who have in the past cooperated with the FDLR. Suspension would therefore undermine the FARDC's resolve and paradoxically, in our view, further weaken discipline by removing the immediate pressure for reform created by Kimia II. Rwanda might also see this as a step backwards from the rapprochement that has opened up an entirely new perspective for the Kivus since the agreement with the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

A suspension would also make it more difficult for the Government to impose State authority and prevent the re-emergence of other armed groups that might well draw the conclusion that attacks against civilians will force the Government to give in to their demands. Above all, a suspension of operation Kimia II would be celebrated as a victory by the FDLR. It would strengthen the ties between the leadership abroad and the combatants on the ground, thus obviating years of efforts at sensitization aimed at weakening these links.

We do, however, agree that military pressure alone is not enough and should be part of a multifaceted approach to the FDLR problem that recognizes the need for enhanced measures to protect civilians and other action designed to encourage FDLR defections and the weakening of FDLR support outside of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Council will recall my earlier appeal for countries hosting FDLR leaders abroad to take legal action to neutralize their influence on the conflict. The Council's commitment and cooperation in this regard are particularly important. FDLR leaders abroad have sustained a propaganda campaign against operation Kimia II, discouraging rank-and-file combatants from surrendering. Additional pressure must be brought to bear on exiled leaders to change their attitude or sever their communications with combatants on the ground.

MONUC has proposed that the Congolese Government and host countries of FDLR leaders in exile explore the possibility of criminalizing the FDLR under the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. There is overwhelming evidence of crimes in the Kivus, and if this initiative gained international support it would also serve as a powerful disincentive to those involved in illegal trading networks with the FDLR.

Allow me now to report briefly on the integration of Congolese armed groups into the national army. More and more remnant groups are joining this process. They have been motivated by a combination of military pressure and dialogue. Although the official integration process is over, the FARDC continues to receive and to integrate those who surrender. At the same time, the army hierarchy is endeavouring to improve the conditions of service for newly integrated soldiers, although the timely payment of salaries is still a major problem that needs to be resolved urgently. We find that when salaries are not paid on time, discipline deteriorates, looting begins and other kinds of violence

follow, especially violence against women. So it is absolutely essential that the problem of timely pay be resolved.

In the framework of the stabilization programme, barracks are being constructed for these troops, with the assistance of the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. A MONUC training programme for newly integrated troops will start in January at two or three planned training centres, with the support of training specialists from the Tanzanian army, who will join MONUC as a formed contingent.

These activities are intended to consolidate military integration and improve the discipline and efficiency of the FARDC. They are the first steps towards army reform, which in itself is an important long-term project that will require substantial international support. The Conseil supérieur de la défense has endorsed an army reform plan that has been submitted to Parliament for review. The Minister of Defence will discuss its implementation with international partners once parliamentary approval has been obtained.

MONUC has worked with the mediation, led by Presidents Obasanjo and Mkapa, to follow up on the 23 March agreements. As I have already mentioned, we have assisted with the release of former CNDP prisoners. We are mobilizing resources for war-wounded and for a training programme for the integrated police units. We shall also continue to press for a solution to the territorial administration in areas where ex-CNDP cadres still retain control on the ground. We will work with all concerned to ensure that the commitment to the 23 March agreements does not falter.

Because of time constraints, I will not discuss a number of other areas of concern and activity of MONUC. Let me mention, however, the local elections. Despite assurances from the Government that the local elections will be held before the general elections currently planned or scheduled for mid-2011, the timetable and dates for those local elections have not yet been announced and may well be pushed back again until late 2010. Also, the necessary enabling legislation has yet to be adopted by the legislature. We have informed the Congolese authorities that when they are ready we will be ready, but obviously the initiative lies with them and not with us.

The report of the Secretary-General also mentions the dismissal of a large number of magistrates. There is concern regarding the establishment of mechanisms to ensure judicial independence and accountability, including the Conseil supérieur de la magistrature. Current tensions regarding the respective roles of the Conseil and the Ministry of Justice, and the paucity of budgetary resources, are impediments to progress in establishing an effective justice sector, which is a key pillar of security sector reform.

As grave as the problem is with regard to the courts, the situation of prisons in the Democratic Republic of the Congo is even more critical. As the current level of national funding renders significant progress impossible, donor resources are urgently required to help us maintain the minimum humanitarian standards expected of a national prison system.

In closing, I want to make some observations, if I may be allowed, about MONUC's mandate, which will be reviewed by this Council at the end of the year. Resolution 1856 (2008) lists 41 tasks, which have given us considerable flexibility in a rapidly changing environment. However, it has also generated many demands and high expectations that perhaps need to be rationalized. The preparation of an integrated strategic framework, as requested by the Secretary-General's Policy Committee, provides us with an opportunity to reflect on how this might be done.

The framework, which is a joint undertaking of MONUC and the United Nations country team, will outline the key challenges facing the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It will indicate how the United Nations might assist the country and respond in a cohesive manner, taking full account of the Government's own stated priorities and the directives of this Council as regards the focus and deployment of MONUC's resources.

The integrated strategic framework builds on other initiatives developed by the United Nations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, notably the United Nations strategy to combat sexual violence, the strategy on protection of civilians, the stabilization programme for the East, and the multidimensional approach to dealing with the FDLR. The framework will consider challenges that do not fall directly under the mandate of MONUC but are of direct concern to the wider United Nations system. Nevertheless, we

anticipate that the strategic framework will highlight issues that should be part of the MONUC mandate review. These will include the progress of the peace process, security sector reform, protection and the rule of law, conflict prevention and resolution, stabilization in the East and the democratic process and elections.

We shall also consider the possible structural arrangements required to implement such a strategic framework. In line with the Security Council's directives, MONUC has already deployed 95 per cent of the Mission's military resources to the East and, outside of the headquarters establishment, almost 90 per cent of the international civilian staff, drawn from all substantive sections, are also in eastern areas. We have conducted a review of ongoing United Nations operations in the western provinces and identified areas of responsibility that could be progressively transferred to the United Nations country team with minimal continued support from MONUC.

In October 2008, the Council approved a surge capacity for MONUC, which is under deployment. Assuming that the surge is successful and that major military operations against foreign armed groups can be concluded in 2010, MONUC could then begin a phased troop drawdown at a pace consonant with the security situation on the ground. Should the Council so wish, this would permit the United Nations to reallocate, within a declining overall budget, additional resources to an intensified programme of security sector reform and, more broadly, to the strengthening of the rule of law as a prelude to the eventual departure of the United Nations peacekeeping presence.

In the next report of the Secretary-General to the Council, we shall present the key elements of the integrated strategic framework as a contribution to the Council's review of MONUC's mandate and the possible reconfiguration of the Mission structure.

In all of the activities, I want to add, MONUC works closely with Congolese authorities at the national and provincial levels. We also work with the special envoys of the Secretary-General, the African Union, the European Union and representatives of individual Member States. We value in particular the contribution of the European Union security sector reform and police missions to security sector reform, as well as the support of several Member States to the United Nations Security and Stabilization Support Strategy for the East.

(*spoke in French*)

In November, MONUC will have been present in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for 10 years. Beginning as a small observer mission, it grew to become the largest United Nations mission in the world. Over the course of the decade, it has overseen the ceasefire and the withdrawal of foreign troops, stabilized the security situation, accompanied the inter-Congolese dialogue and the transfer and demobilization of armed groups in Kivu and elsewhere, facilitated the first free and transparent elections in 40 years, and helped the Government to manage the crisis in the Kivus and to combat armed forces.

We are proud to have worked with the Democratic Republic of the Congo in its peace process, which has seen many reversals and developments, but certain essential objectives set out in the Sun City Agreement and that underpin MONUC's presence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo remain to be achieved. These include the training of a professional republican army, the restoration of State authority throughout the national territory, reconciliation and the effective reconstruction of the country. I believe that the simultaneous tasks of stabilization and pacification must continue, with the support of MONUC and the material and diplomatic support of the Security Council.

The President: I thank Mr. Doss for his briefing.

I give the floor to the representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Mr. Ileka (Democratic Republic of the Congo) (*spoke in French*): I wish to reassure you, Sir, that I will be brief. At the outset I would like to express my pleasure at seeing you, Sir, preside over the Council during this month of October. I also take the opportunity to associate myself with the unanimous congratulations addressed to the United States delegation for last month's presidency. Finally, I note the importance of the Secretary-General's twenty-ninth report on the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) (S/2009/472) and thank him. I also welcome the presentation and briefing just made by his Special Representative.

I will limit my comments to two aspects of importance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The first is MONUC.

For all things, there is a beginning and there is an end. We human beings are born and we die. That is God's will and nature's law, but the important thing is to succeed in life. It is the duty of MONUC to succeed in Congo. Our future generations must remember this as having been, at a specific moment in history, the largest United Nations peacekeeping operation, which by its deployment made it possible to end the first African world war and which successfully oversaw a lengthy disengagement process, managed a difficult political transition, assisted in organizing free and democratic elections and, finally, laid the foundations for renewal of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. That means that to be a complete success, it is imperative that MONUC succeed in its exit.

We are thankful that the international community has finally deigned — even one year late — to follow through on the request of the Secretary-General for a temporary increase in the number of MONUC military and police unit personnel. This was important in order to strengthen MONUC's capacity to truly protect the Congolese civilian population and for MONUC to commit itself more firmly than it has to date, alongside the Congolese army, in the fight against the residual armed groups that still abound in the eastern part of my country. It is necessary to significantly reduce, even annihilate, the capacity of those armed groups to harm in order to make peace a reality. Restoring peace, which the people of Congo yearn for, will promote healthy, calm consideration of the future of the United Nations presence in the Congo.

Here I wish to be clear. The Congolese people do not wish for a hasty withdrawal of MONUC. At the same time, the Congolese people do not want MONUC to remain forever. It thus behooves my country to take with the Council the multidimensional strategic decisions — including military and non-military measures — aimed, inter alia, at enabling the Congolese Government to fully take on and ensure security, State authority throughout the national territory, good governance, strengthening the rule of law and the economic development of the country.

In order to do this we must work together, both at Headquarters and in the field, to define the parameters for drawing up not only a timetable for the disengagement of United Nations troops in parallel with the setting up of the Congolese army, but also, more generally, a road map which would sanction the transition from a peacekeeping operation to a peacebuilding operation, an operation to bolster stability in an area which could transcend Congo's borders. On that subject, I have already exchanged letters with the Secretariat on setting up a United Nations office for Central Africa. Once that has been established, simple logic would dictate that this office be located in the country which symbolizes Central Africa and whose capital is Kinshasa.

My second point is sexual violence, a topic I hold close to my heart. On 10 January 2000, I addressed the Security Council as the embassy counselor I was then on the topic of the impact of AIDS on peace and security in Africa. (S/PV.4087 (Resumption 1)). I seized that opportunity to draw the Council's attention to the inhuman and degrading treatment and violence suffered by Congolese heads of households — mainly men who were victims of the war. I also drew the attention of the international community to the very heavy toll paid by women, children and especially young girls in the eastern provinces, victims of systematic rape by the occupiers, and highlighted the use of seropositive soldiers. Still today, the prevalence rate of AIDS in Orientale province and in North and South Kivu is four times the national average.

I remain convinced that if at that time the Council had deigned to take on its responsibility, this virus of sexual violence that the Democratic Republic of the Congo inherited would not have spread. It would not have contaminated on such a scale the various armed groups, Congolese armed forces and peacekeeping contingents. I feel no pride, I feel no honour to find myself 10 years later before the Council addressing virtually the same issue and continuing to report on these massive violations of human rights, especially violence against women and children.

With the passage of time, the vast majority of those who committed atrocities at the beginning of hostilities will slip through the net of justice. However, their bosses and masterminds are well known. It is important that those soldiers and others convicted of crimes of sexual violence be brought to justice in their respective States. In fact, one could come up with and develop a mechanism by which international justice could be correctly rendered.

Turning to the actions of my Government, all Council members heard the head of my delegation affirm, during the general debate in the sixty-fourth session of the General Assembly, that

> "The sexual violence perpetrated against women and girls in the eastern part of Democratic Republic of the Congo is, in our view, the most shameful and gravest crime witnessed by humankind in the twenty-first century." (see *A/64/PV.11*)

The Minister for Foreign Affairs assured Member States of the firm resolve of His Excellency President Joseph Kabila Kabange to put an end to impunity for the perpetrators of these heinous acts. He informed Member States that a number of officers of the Congolese armed forces and a good many civilians who had committed such hateful crimes have been brought before the national courts.

The international community represented in the Congo should also show itself above reproach, as sometimes its behaviour leaves something to be desired. By way of example, I can cite the umpteenth case of a sexual offence committed by Blue Helmets, which occurred during the night of 31 July/1 August at N'Djili International Airport. While all the parties involved do not deny the commission of an act that I consider reprehensible, the MONUC spokesperson deemed it correct to declare, with regard to the complaint lodged by an 18-year-old woman of gang rape that night, that there was insufficient evidence to continue the investigation.

If the decision not to press charges had come from Congolese justice I would not have commented. But as a Congolese citizen, I believe that I have the right to know how that conclusion was reached. If it was a United Nations decision, most likely the result of some arrangement, that would be regrettable and the Security Council should have taken the matter up. In this specific case, whether gang rape occurred or not, because they were dealing with a presumed streetwalker, did these United Nations Blue Helmets have the right to turn N'Djili International Airport into a sex pad, without any reprimand or sanction? This is shocking. I ask, what happened to the zero-tolerance policy declared in 2005?

On the matter of sexual violence, it is important that all of us together send the right message. Maybe the creation of the post of special representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in armed conflict will be a sufficient response. However, to be frank and candid, I must say that people would find it difficult to understand if the post were not filled by a woman, especially a woman from a region affected by the plague of sexual violence.

Finally, I would be remiss if, after what was said by the Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, Sir John Sawers — whose departure I regret — I failed to recognize the efforts of all those women and men who have deeply felt the unspeakable suffering and burdens of Congolese women. To the list of those mentioned on 30 September by the British Permanent Representative (see S/PV.6195), I should like to add the diplomats of the United States Mission to the United Nations and especially the informal group United for Women of All Nations, whose activities have been decisive in ensuring that the plight of Congolese women is not forgotten.

The President: There are no further speakers on my list. In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 10.55 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6204

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6204th meeting

Thursday, 22 October 2009, 11.10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Le Luong Minh	(Viet Nam)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Koudougou
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Costa Rica	Mr. Urbina
	Croatia	Mr. Vilović
	France	Mr. Araud
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Dabbashi
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	Uganda	Mr. Rugunda
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Ms. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (S/2009/535)

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09-57164 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 11.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (S/2009/535)

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Edmond Mulet, Assistant Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Mulet to take a seat at the Council table.

The Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2009/535, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad.

At this meeting, the Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Edmond Mulet. I now give him the floor.

Mr. Mulet: Before I start, I would like to confirm to the Council the very sad news of the death this morning of the Deputy Force Commander of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS), Brigadier Ahmed Moinuddin, who was shot down in Islamabad while on leave in his home country of Pakistan. He had taken over his responsibilities as Deputy Force Commander of UNMIS in the Sudan on 24 June.

(*spoke in French*)

I thank the Council for the opportunity to update it on the situation in eastern Chad and the north-east Central African Republic. The Secretary-General's quarterly report (S/2009/535) on the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) is before the Council. I take this opportunity to highlight a number of points of particular interest, as well as the most significant developments that have taken place since the report was issued.

As the report indicates, MINURCAT continues to train, advise and monitor the Détachement integré de sécurité (DIS), the Chadian community police force tasked with preserving law and order in refugee camps, internally displaced persons sites and the main cities in the East of the country, as well as with assisting in creating a security environment conducive to carrying out humanitarian activities. If it is to continue this support and to finance new programmes in the justice and prison sectors, the MINURCAT Trust Fund will requires $21.7 million for 2010. To this end, pledges totalling $14.5 million were made at a donor meeting held in Brussels on 2 October. These pledges, from the European Commission, France, Luxembourg, Norway and the United States, demonstrate donors' firm commitment to DIS, which is acknowledged and highly appreciated.

Nonetheless, given the $7.2 million still to be mobilized, we invite members of the Council to assist us in generating additional pledges from other donors. MINURCAT's support for DIS is essential to achieving some of the objectives relating to the fulfilment of the Mission's mandate, especially the strengthening of Chad's capacity to ensure the security of refugees, displaced persons, civilians and humanitarian workers, to maintain law and order and ensure respect for human rights.

With DIS now deployed, efforts are currently focused on improving its training and capacities. MINURCAT and the Government of Chad will soon reach a critical stage in that process with the gradual transition towards national ownership and financing of DIS. While the Chadian Government remains committed to assuming responsibility for this vital national force, the backing of the international community during this transition remains essential.

(*spoke in English*)

As of 19 October, MINURCAT comprised 2,750 troops, representing 53 per cent of its authorized strength. We continue to do everything possible to expedite the deployment of all pledged contingents. However, the expansion of the force has been impeded by difficulties experienced by some troop-contributing countries in acquiring and transporting equipment, which is all the more critical given the impending departure of some contingents. Meanwhile, the impending withdrawal of existing transport and engineering units will also constrain the Mission prior to the arrival of new

contingents between December 2009 and March 2010. While MINURCAT is developing measures to ensure the continuation of operations in all sectors, the capacities of the force will be stretched in the coming months.

In some cases, the deployment of the MINURCAT force has also been delayed as a result of legal matters, including disputes over the payment of taxes on goods and supplies imported by MINURCAT contractors or provided by troop-contributing countries under letter-of-assist arrangements. In this regard, I am pleased to report that on 15 October, the Government of Chad and MINURCAT signed an addendum to the status of mission agreement to incorporate the military component. We hope that, with this very welcome development, past disputes concerning charges inconsistent with the agreement will not be repeated.

Despite these challenges, I am pleased to report that the MINURCAT force, within its current strength and capacities, has continued to build confidence, including through a series of high-profile operations designed to deter criminality and provide a security umbrella. Improved coordination between DIS, the national police and the gendarmerie has also enhanced security for humanitarian efforts.

On 17 October, a campaign to unite to end violence against women was launched in Chad as part of a United Nations initiative to combat sexual and gender-based violence by promoting the adoption and enforcement of national legislation in line with international human rights standards, the implementation of national and local action plans, and awareness-raising campaigns. However, as the rainy season abates, we remain concerned by unconfirmed reports, denied by the Government of Chad, of the ongoing presence of forces of the Justice and Equality Movement in border locations in the North-East, and by similar reports of Chadian armed opposition groups on the Sudanese side of the border.

In this regard, however, we are encouraged by a statement made by the Governments of Chad and the Sudan on 11 October, following a meeting in N'Djamena between Chadian President Déby and Sudanese presidential adviser Ghazi Salah Al-Din, stressing their desire to restore confidence between the two Governments. In recent days, President Déby has also publicly committed to working with the Sudan on a number of confidence-building measures. During his recent visit to N'Djamena for discussions on the Darfur political process, the African Union-United Nations Joint Chief Mediator Djibril Bassolé encouraged the Government of Chad to continue this dialogue, since an improvement in Chad-Sudan relations would have a direct and positive impact on efforts to achieve peace in Darfur. The Government of Chad's stated intention to relocate the Ouré Cassoni refugee camp away from the border could also be a positive development for Chad-Sudan relations.

As we have stated on many previous occasions, progress to normalize relations between Chad and the Sudan must be matched by efforts to address the internal conflicts prevailing in both the Sudan and Chad. In this regard, we welcome progress made in the implementation of the 13 August agreement, including the establishment of an independent electoral body to oversee legislative and presidential elections in Chad and the recent announcement of the census results.

Following a request by the National Electoral Commission, a needs assessment mission was sent to Chad in late August by the Department of Political Affairs, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme. The team has finalized its report and will shortly begin discussions with the Government of Chad on the electoral process.

In the meantime, we encourage the Government and political opposition to fully implement governance aspects of the 13 August agreement, sponsored by the European Union, to promote the transparent functioning of administrative, judicial and military institutions. We also call on armed groups in Chad to relinquish their arms and for all parties to engage towards a comprehensive process of national reconciliation.

(*spoke in French*)

I should like in conclusion to touch on the situation in north-eastern Central African Republic, which to some extent has stabilized since my most recent briefing to the Council. The situation remains unpredictable, however, and the underlying sources of insecurity, including inter-ethnic tensions, have yet to be resolved. We encourage the Government of the Central African Republic to step up its efforts to facilitate inter-community dialogue and to launch a credible disarmament process in the region.

The President: I thank Mr. Mulet for his briefing.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I now invite Council members to informal consultations to continue our discussion of the subject.

The meeting rose at 11.20 a.m.

United Nations S/PV.6205

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6205th meeting

Friday, 23 October 2009, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Le Luong Minh	(Viet Nam)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Kafando
	China	Mr. Zhang Yesui
	Costa Rica	Mr. Urbina
	Croatia	Mr. Vilović
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Dabbashi
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	Uganda	Mr. Rugunda
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Ms. DiCarlo

Agenda

The situation in Timor-Leste

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (S/2009/504)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

09-57362 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

The situation in Timor-Leste

Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (S/2009/504)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Australia, Brazil, New Zealand, the Philippines, Portugal, South Africa, Sweden, Timor-Leste and Thailand, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, Mr. Guterres (Timor-Leste) took a seat at the Council table; the representatives of the other aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: On behalf of the Council, I extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. José Luís Guterres, Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Atul Khare, Special Representative of the Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Khare to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

Members of the Council have before them document S/2009/504, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Atul Khare. I give him the floor.

Mr. Khare: I thank you, Sir, for the opportunity to introduce the sixth report (S/2009/504) of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), covering the period from 21 January to 23 September 2009. I would also like to acknowledge the presence of the Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Mr. José Luís Guterres.

Let me begin with developments since 23 September. On 7 October, the Council of Ministers approved the draft law on the 2010 State budget, which totals approximately $636.9 million. The Government realizes that it must diversify engines for economic growth and job creation while retaining a focus on addressing extreme poverty, unemployment, infrastructure creation and rural development. The Government has also invited the United Nations World Tourism Organization to send a technical assistance mission, scheduled for 10 to 21 November, to conduct a detailed review of that sector. President José Ramos-Horta, endeavouring to increase international interest and tourism in Timor-Leste, organized the inaugural Tour de Timor, a hugely successful cross-country bicycling race in which almost 300 riders from throughout the world participated from 24 to 28 August. On 12 October, he announced the inaugural International Sports Fishing Competition, which will take place in late November.

On 9 October, Timor-Leste successfully held elections for community authorities in a generally peaceful atmosphere with the United Nation police and the National Police Force of Timor-Leste (PNTL) providing security throughout the country. The provisional results indicate that about 67.75 per cent of registered voters cast ballots. These elections were more complicated and challenging than the national elections of 2007, since each local community required a unique ballot.

The ability of the electoral bodies of Timor-Leste to successfully organize the elections demonstrated

their increasing capacities and the public's continuing faith in democratic electoral processes. In comparison to the 2007 elections, UNMIT helicopter support was minimal, and it is expected that, by the 2012 national elections, such support might be needed only for emergency situations. There were a few minor incidents of violence, but far fewer than in 2007.

I compliment the Timorese electorate, which during practically all electoral rallies identified communal peace, water, electricity, roads and other infrastructure, as well as education, as its primary concerns. In at least one local community, the issues of carbon dioxide emissions, global warming and the ozone hole were also avidly debated. The integrated United Nations electoral support team, established by us and comprised of staff members of UNMIT and the United Nations Development Programme, enabled the provision of coordinated advice and support through a single window as One United Nations, and has provided important lessons for the future.

On 13 October, the National Parliament debated a motion of no confidence submitted by FRETILIN, the single largest party, and its ally, the Klibur Oan Timor Asuwain party, because of their opposition to the release of Maternus Bere. The motion was defeated by a vote of 39 to 25, with only one member of Parliament absent on the day of the debate. Prime Minister Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão took part in the day-long debate, which was aired on national radio and television. This debate was a positive step towards ensuring that critical issues of national interest be channelled through the National Parliament, with meaningful participation from the opposition. Of course, the legal issues surrounding the case can be properly dealt with only in a competent court. I was delighted to note that Prime Minister Gusmão said in his intervention that the "parties that make up the Alliance for a Parliamentary Majority have no special interest in an amnesty law".

I trust that all necessary steps, as recommended by the Secretary-General in paragraph 55 of his report, will soon be initiated. UNMIT stands ready to provide its assistance and support, including to the National Parliament. My Human Rights and Transitional Justice Section, along with the Serious Crimes Investigation Team, organized a workshop on 7 October on international criminal law, particularly as it relates to the situation in Timor-Leste, at the request of Committee A of the National Parliament. President of the National Parliament Fernando "Lasama" de Araújo has also indicated to me that the reports of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation and the Commission of Truth and Friendship, as well as their recommendations, may be discussed by Parliament following its debate of the draft law on the 2010 State budget in December.

Another important and positive development in relation to the 2006 cases recommended for prosecution by the Independent Special Commission of Inquiry took place on 9 October, when two defendants found guilty of assault and illegal carriage of firearms were sentenced to two years and eight months and one and half year of imprisonment, respectively. However, they were acquitted on counts of homicide, threatening violence and unlawful deprivation of liberty. It is my hope that fair trials will take place in the remaining cases upon the conclusion of the investigations.

I have consistently made clear in various forums with Timorese political leaders and civil society the United Nations firm position that there can be no amnesty or impunity for serious crimes such as genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. UNMIT continues to conduct investigations into serious crimes committed in 1999, as mandated by resolution 1704 (2006), in a highly cost-efficient manner. I agree with President Ramos-Horta that such investigations should also lead to the further capacity-building of Timorese investigators, in particular in the area of forensics, and will continue to make further efforts to closely involve Timorese nationals in the investigative process.

Strengthening the rule of law will require sustained efforts by the Timorese, with continued assistance from international partners.

I would like to commend the work of the four-person team led by Judge Phillip Rapoza in producing an independent comprehensive needs assessment of the justice sector. I have shared their report with the President, the President of the National Parliament, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister, who is here with us today. The report was also forwarded by UNMIT to the Council of Coordination, which is comprised of the President of the Court of Appeal, the Minister for Justice and the Prosecutor-General. In conjunction with the strategic plan for the justice sector, the recommendations of the independent comprehensive needs assessment should be utilized as a contribution to a coordinated and considered

approach to justice-sector reform. It should also facilitate the identification and provision of the assistance that is most needed from the international community.

The resumption of primary responsibility for the conduct of police operations by the Polícia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL) will continue with Viqueque district in the later part of November. As part of its efforts to support security-sector reform, UNMIT is also continuing to support the Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste (F-FDTL), most recently through a media mentoring exercise conducted from 6 to 8 October for a select group of F-FDTL soldiers and civilians from the Secretariat of State for Defence, as well as through a training-of-trainers course conducted with national and international human rights bodies from 12 to 14 October.

I now seek the Council's indulgence in reflecting on a few issues from my perspective of the past almost three years in Timor-Leste that require consideration and guidance from the Council.

The dictum that there should be no strategy without an exit is well known. However, the reverse — namely, that there should be no exit without a strategy — is equally true. President Ramos-Horta and other leaders of Timor-Leste do not wish to be continually dependent on the presence of a Security-Council-mandated operation or on the deployment of international security forces. I also believe that the long-term sustainability of Timor-Leste's efforts depends on the ability of its own institutions to operate in a democratic, responsible and effective manner. At every step of the way, UNMIT and the United Nations country team have consciously endeavoured to work in a manner that enhances the capacity and credibility of the institutions of this young nation.

Nevertheless, our success in supporting the institutions of Timor-Leste, instead of taking the lead in any activity, can occasionally give the appearance that support is non-existent or irrelevant. That approach also means that progress is not linear, but depends on the pace at which institutions develop. Therefore, sudden improvements or deterioration should not be a cause for elation or undue despondency, respectively. What is required is a stable and steady approach.

The touchstone for success in Timor-Leste is not whether or not crises occur, but how future crises are met and resolved. The goal should be to ensure that they are handled in a responsible manner that does not threaten the State and that, instead, provides an opportunity for enhanced social cohesion and development.

The upcoming technical assessment mission to Timor-Leste should engage extensively with the national authorities, who are conducting their own review of the presence of the United Nations and international security forces, as well as with political parties and civil society members from across the spectrum. The future presence and role of the international security forces needs to be carefully taken into account in planning any modification of the composition and strength of UNMIT. The United Nations and the Government of Timor-Leste should jointly agree on the criteria for each step in the process of downsizing the UNMIT police and modifying the composition and strength of the Mission. It should be clearly agreed with the authorities, in advance of each stage, what support the United Nations will and will not be able to provide. No false promises should be directly or implicitly made to the Timorese authorities and people.

At the same time, cooperation with long-term providers of bilateral and multilateral assistance to Timor-Leste must continue to be consciously promoted. Unfortunately, I do not have time to present an exhaustive list of important bilateral and multilateral assistance, but I would like to refer to a few recent examples.

The Australian Government overseas aid programme's assistance to Timor-Leste has doubled in the past four years, providing, for example, over $9.2 million for water and sanitation projects this year alone. During the reporting period, the United States dispatched a unit of naval engineers to support the development of the F-FDTL's engineering capabilities and to execute humanitarian projects, in particular school rehabilitation and construction. The Millennium Development Goal Achievement Fund Joint Programme (S/2009/504, para. 43) is fully funded by Spain. The European Commission remains one of the most important partners, providing, for example, funds totalling more than $5.5 million to United Nations agencies to support projects that promote social peace and stability. Portugal's largest project anywhere in the world is in Timor-Leste. It entails the deployment of 120 trainers in all 13 districts, who have trained more

than 3,000 primary school teachers and 2,000 secondary and pre-secondary teachers in the Portuguese language.

I must also acknowledge the critical importance of Cuba's medical assistance and adult literacy programmes, as well as the bilateral assistance of many Asian countries, in particular the member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Japan, a major provider of assistance on infrastructure and rural development, recently supported the *suco* or subdistrict entity elections with financial grants. Just two days ago, Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão announced China's additional contribution of 30 million yuan for the refurbishment of various elements of the infrastructure. Coordination by the United Nations with bilateral and multilateral donors, based on a strategic and measured approach, will be imperative in ensuring a common understanding of respective roles and responsibilities.

Timor-Leste, as a small and young island State, also has to grapple with the challenges of environmental protection. The environmental footprint of international assistance should, therefore, be as light as possible. UNMIT has been making continuous efforts to reduce energy consumption and to protect the environment. Those efforts have resulted in a reduction of 7.8 per cent in the use of generator fuel, which represents a savings of approximately $285,000, as well as a 15 per cent reduction in photocopier paper use over the one-year period ending in August 2009, as compared to the previous one-year period.

As I prepare to complete my tenure as Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, allow me to thank the people and leaders of Timor-Leste for the gracious manner in which they have welcomed me amidst them. I have been touched by the kindnesses of President José Ramos-Horta, President of the National Parliament Fernando "Lasama" de Araújo, Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão, former Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri, leaders of all political parties and ordinary Timorese from all walks of life in Dili and in the far-outlying and inaccessible villages. I owe them a debt of gratitude for reinforcing my faith in the words of our Charter — better standards of life in larger freedom — that they constantly seek.

I would also like to thank Deputy Special Representatives of the Secretary-General Finn Reske-Nielsen and Takahisa Kawakami, as well as all the women and men of UNMIT and the United Nations country team, who, every single day, demonstrate their commitment to the high ideals of the United Nations and to supporting the people of Timor-Leste. Similarly, the support of men and women of the international security forces has been critical to our work.

Finally, I wish to thank the Security Council for its constant support and guidance. I also wish to thank the Secretary-General for having given me the opportunity to be a partner of the Timorese in their historic nation- and State-building endeavours.

The President: I thank Mr. Khare for his briefing.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. José Luís Guterres, Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste.

Mr. Guterres (Timor-Leste): Allow me to first congratulate you, Mr. President, and your country on assuming the presidency of the Security Council for this month. It is a great honour for me to be back in this Chamber and to share with Council members our opinion on the current developments in Timor-Leste, as well as some of our ideas and actions for the near future.

The Security Council has been following the question of Timor-Leste since December 1975. Many decades have passed, and together we have overcome many difficulties and challenges. Today, we live in an independent, peaceful and democratic country.

On 12 October, democracy and accountability were put to the test in our national Parliament. Speaker Fernando "Lasama" de Araújo, the leader of the Democratic Party and a member of the current majority coalition, convened a session of Parliament to debate a motion of no confidence in the Government, tabled by the opposition party FRETILIN. Their stated reason for the motion was the unconstitutionality and illegality of the Government's decision to grant freedom to a former militia leader accused of taking part in the massacre at the church in Suai district in 1999. It was a lively debate that lasted almost an entire day, and it was broadcast live on national television and followed by thousands of Timorese.

Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão successfully defended the Government's actions. The motion was rejected by the national Parliament by an absolute and

solid majority. The decisions taken were based on the Constitution of our country and our national interests. The former militia leader was not released but was transferred to the Indonesian embassy, since he is an Indonesian citizen. As of now, he remains at the Indonesian embassy, waiting for legal procedures to take their course.

Before I came on 20 October, Minister of Justice Lúcia Lobato and I had a meeting with defence lawyer Sergio Ornay. He informed us of the two petitions he had delivered to the Tribunal requesting the release of his client for health reasons. No decision has been taken by the Tribunal to date. We commend the Government and the embassy of Indonesia in Dili for their understanding of the legal complexity of the case.

On 13 October, an independent comprehensive needs assessment team comprised of four judicial and legal experts from the international community, led by Judge Rapoza of the United States, published their report. Many recommendations were made; some will take many years to be implemented. Some are already included in the Government's plans. I would like to quote the conclusions of the report:

> "As noted throughout this report, a significant amount of progress has been made in developing the overall justice system of Timor-Leste. Although a number of challenges and needs continue to exist, the Timorese with whom the team interacted demonstrated a high degree of dedication and commitment. Although there is no question that they foresee the need for continued advice and assistance from the international community, they are motivated by a vision of a justice system run by the Timorese. This is a goal worth striving for and is a cause that deserves the continued support of the international community."

One of the major challenges we as the people of Timor-Leste have encountered was the crisis of 2006. Some 150,000 Timorese fled their homes and 65 internally displaced person tent camps were established in Dili and other districts. With the assistance of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, the European Commission, many countries and other partners, the Ministry of Social Solidarity was able to reintegrate all the internally displaced persons (IDPs) and close all the IDP camps this year.

The Government has invested its best efforts and allocated $35.8 million to provide support for their reintegration. Today, many of their houses have been rebuilt. We are now preparing to deliver the second phase of assistance to the 16,500 registered internally displaced families. By the end of 2009, we will provide recovery assistance for the possessions and assets destroyed.

We have also developed a social housing programme to support the elderly, the disabled, widows and chronically ill. A total of 450 improved traditional houses will be built this year. Next year, we will continue to expand this programme so that better housing will be available to our most vulnerable people.

We are also providing assistance to poor households to prevent malnutrition during the lean season. We have provided food assistance this year to almost 90,000 households. A special programme has been created for widows and single mothers, particularly those who are ill and whose circumstances prevent them from earning an income to support their children. Assistance is provided for them to purchase food, clothing and school materials for their children. As of today, 7,050 families have received assistance under this programme.

A social security programme this year will benefit almost 65,000 elderly persons and a total of 5,355 disabled citizens. The Government has allocated $16.25 million for this programme. From January to August of this year, 3,267 veterans and the families of the martyrs have received their pensions. The total potential number of beneficiaries is 12,540. The Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Gusmão, believes that by implementing these social policies, we are also investing in the stability and social harmony of our country.

Social harmony and stability, the values of democracy and respect for the rule of law were recently demonstrated by our people in every village in Timor-Leste during the successful and peaceful Suku elections that were held this month. We thank the United Nations system, United Nations volunteers and the international community for their support. The Timorese National Electoral Commission did a great job in supervising the elections, and the Technical

Secretariat for Electoral Administration did a great job in organizing these elections.

Security sector reform has been a priority since the inauguration of the current Government. Progress has been made in the defence area. The draft national security law and national defence law are now before the national Parliament. The new Ministry of Defence and Security structure, the military police law, a military service law and amendments to the military service law were approved. There is ongoing discussion on the drafts of the new Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste structure, the concept and system of training and the new concept of employment.

A draft national security law is before the Parliament, laying out the roles and responsibilities of the respective forces. The process will lead to civilian oversight and professional defence and security forces. The United Nations and the Government have agreed on a mechanism to progressively hand over responsibilities to the National Police Force of Timor-Leste (PNTL). So far, three districts and one unit of the police academy have been handed over to PNTL control.

By investing in human resources and providing better infrastructure, equipment and salaries to our defence and security forces, we will help them fulfil their obligations under our Constitution. This reform is a long-term process. Some scholars and experts say that it may take a generation, but we are confident that we are going in the right direction and at the right speed.

In order to achieve lasting and sustainable peace and stability, we also need to invest in the development of the country. As a nation blessed with natural resources, we have allocated our own resources to the financing of the national budget. Petroleum and gas revenues have been our main source of income. The petroleum fund reached $5 billion in July this year; the fund's annual return was 4.17 per cent.

Just a few days ago in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Timor-Leste became a member of the International Gas Union to better protect our interests. Next year, we will establish a national oil company and invest in the creation of the basic infrastructure needed to develop our petroleum and gas industry.

Economic data of the World Bank indicate that Timor-Leste's economic growth rate was 12.8 per cent in 2008. This year, we hope to achieve growth of 8 to 9 per cent. The national budget for 2010 will be debated in the national parliament next month. A total of seven national priority areas have been identified: roads and water; food security, focused on productivity; human resources and development; access to justice; social services and decentralized service delivery; good governance; and public safety. We expect to maintain our economic growth. We will invest in infrastructure needed for development. We will create more jobs for our people. We will continue to invest in education, health and gender equality.

In order to improve budget execution, efficiency and professionalism in public service, parliament has approved a proposal by the Government to create a civil service commission, which is an independent body. Parliament has also approved a proposal by the Government to create a national anti-corruption commission to combat and prevent corruption in State institutions and in our society.

With all those systems and institutions in place and operational, we might say to the world that we as a people are saying a final goodbye to conflict and welcoming development with an open-hearted smile.

In August this year, Mr. Ramos-Horta, President of the Republic, took the initiative to organize the Timor-Leste Tour. That international cycling event took participants to the villages, mountains and valleys of our country. Thousands of Timorese came to our roads with warm smiles, welcoming and applauding participants from many nations. President Ramos-Horta has already announced that next year, Timor-Leste will organize an international fishing competition. Through such initiatives, we hope to achieve a new and better image for our country: that of a peaceful and caring people. We are ready to share with the world the beauty of our people and our landscape.

I would like to thank Mr. Atul Khare, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his great and invaluable contributions to peace, stability, democracy and harmony in our country. His weekly meetings with President Ramos-Horta, Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão, Speaker Fernando "Lasama" and opposition leader Mr. Mari Alkatiri are deeply appreciated.

I thank Deputy Special Representatives Finn Reske-Nielsen and Takahisa Kawakami and all

members of UNMIT for their continuous support. I have had the honour of participating with the Special Representative and his colleagues in the Trilateral Coordination Forum to discuss the security challenges and threats in Timor-Leste. We have learned much from him. We — and I personally — believe that the international community will continue to rely on his expertise, experience and intelligence. We wish Mr. Khare and his family a successful journey, whatever the missions or challenges they may embrace or encounter in the future.

Finally, as President Ramos-Horta has stated many times, Timor-Leste will continue to need the presence and support of the United Nations until 2012. We would like to take this opportunity to praise the countries and Governments of Council members for their support for peace, stability, democracy, transparency, the rule of law, gender equality, human rights, justice and development in Timor-Leste.

Mr. Takasu (Japan): I would like to thank Mr. Atul Khare, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his very important briefing on the progress of nation-building efforts in Timor-Leste. I also warmly welcome the presence of His Excellency Mr. José Luís Guterres, Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, and thank him for his valuable statement this morning.

First of all, our sincere congratulations go to the Government and the people of Timor-Leste on the ceremony commemorating the tenth anniversary of the popular consultation, held on 30 August this year. Over the past 10 years, there have been periods that have not been the best of times for the newly independent country; several huge challenges culminated in the crisis of spring 2006. However, the strong determination and efforts of the people of Timor-Leste, with the support of the United Nations and the international community, have enabled the nation to make progress towards being a peaceful and stable country.

We are encouraged by the steady building of democratic governance in Timor-Leste. That progress was well demonstrated in the recently held suco — community leaders — a elections organized throughout the country. According to our report, Japanese electoral observers were so impressed by voters patiently waiting to exercise their right to cast their ballots to choose their own local leaders. That is democracy in action. We hope that the democratic culture will continue to take root, not only at the national level, but also at the municipal and local levels. The valuable support provided by the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) for these successful elections is greatly appreciated.

It is a sound democracy in which political leaders can have an exchange of views and set forth their arguments openly in parliament. We appreciate and support the efforts of the Secretary-General's Special Representative and Deputy Special Representatives, while respecting the sovereignty of Timor-Leste, to maintain daily contact with political leaders and encourage them to resolve issues through the democratic process.

The security situation is moving in the direction of greater stability, with the assistance of UNMIT and its tireless efforts. We are particularly pleased at several positive developments, such as the closure of all camps for internally displaced persons without major incident, the judicial proceedings for the suspects in the 2008 assaults on the President and the Prime Minister, and the reintegration of the so-called petitioners. We agree with the cautiously optimistic assessment made by the Secretary-General in his report (S/2009/504).

The stable security situation has been made possible by the presence of UNMIT since its establishment in August 2006. UNMIT has been conducting law enforcement on an interim basis and helping to rebuild the National Police Force of Timor-Leste (PNTL). We are pleased at the recent reassumption of responsibility by the PNTL in three districts and at the Police Academy as the fruit of those efforts. Japan supports the approach taken: that the reassumption of responsibility by the National Police should be based not on an artificial timeline, but on whether it meets the stipulated criteria. We wish to see further progress in other districts based on that approach. It is important to emphasize a clear delineation between the role of the national police and the defence force, the Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste (F-FDTL), as underscored in resolution 1867 (2009).

We certainly acknowledge the essential role that the F-FDTL played in the process of achieving independence. However, as part of achieving a stable and prosperous democratic nation, Timor-Leste must

deal with the challenge of defining the new role that the country's armed forces should play in peacetime and of maintaining effective civilian oversight. From our experience after World War II, we in Japan are convinced of the importance of civilian control of the defence forces as a fundamental pillar of the stability and prosperity of nations. We acknowledge the positive contribution made by the Secretary-General's Deputy Special Representative for Security Support and Rule of Law to the discussion in Parliament of the drafts of three security-related laws.

It is our view that United Nations support for Timor-Leste is beginning to bear fruit. Timor-Leste is moving out of the emergency phase and entering a period of transition on the way to achieving self-sustainable stability, the rule of law, a working justice system and socio-economic development. The country is enjoying sound economic growth. It may very soon be possible to review the structure of UNMIT, so that it can correspond more closely to the current needs of the country.

Naturally, some elements still require careful monitoring, and we must be prudent in order to avoid hasty action that might undermine the success we have achieved so far. We therefore look forward to the technical assessment mission that will formulate recommendations to be included in the Secretary-General's next report. It would be helpful if that report included a review of the role of the Mission from the mid-to-long-term peace- and nation-building perspective.

Lastly, I would like to pay tribute to the personal contributions of Mr. Khare for what he and his able team have achieved in UNMIT since 2006. We greatly regret that Mr. Khare is soon to leave the Mission and wish him well in his future endeavours. We are convinced that UNMIT will continue to do its best to support Timor-Leste in its nation-building efforts, building on the path paved by Mr. Khare. As a staunch supporter and a good neighbour, Japan will spare no effort to aid in a successful nation-building process for Timor-Leste.

Mr. Parham (United Kingdom): I would like to begin by thanking Mr. Khare, the Secretary-General's Special Representative for Timor-Leste, for his briefing. I understand that this will be his last appearance before his departure in December, so I would very much like to thank him for all his efforts during his time as Special Representative and indeed before. I would also like to welcome Deputy Prime Minister Guterres to the Council Chamber and to commend his and his Government's efforts to deliver sustainable security and development to Timor-Leste.

As the Secretary-General's report (S/2009/504) notes, there have been welcome signs of continued progress during the reporting period. In particular, the successful holding of local elections on 9 October was evidence of the relative stability and security that Timor-Leste now enjoys, and of the capacity of the body politic to engage in the democratic process in a committed but peaceful manner. We also welcome the progress noted in the Secretary-General's report with regard to the medium-term benchmarks for Timor-Leste. We are particularly pleased to see the successful resumption of policing responsibilities by local police in three separate districts. It is especially encouraging to note that no increase in crime or disorder has followed this transfer of responsibility. We look forward to the continued transfer of policing responsibilities to the Timor-Leste authorities in the remaining districts.

The progress in this area is a tribute to the efforts of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) police component to help strengthen national policing capacity. I would like to express our gratitude to them and to the Governments of Australia and New Zealand for their valuable and ongoing work in this field. On security sector reform more broadly, we concur with the conclusion in the Secretary-General's report that greater clarity is required on the role and responsibilities of the national defence forces. The absence of such clarity has the potential to hamper the overall security sector reform effort. We are also encouraged by progress in the other three benchmark areas: justice and the rule of law, democratic governance and the concerted efforts being made in the field of economic and social development. This is all evidence of Timor-Leste's increasing capacity in these fields.

Notwithstanding the progress reported in a number of areas, I would like to take this opportunity to stress the importance of doing more, and more quickly, to address the issue of impunity for those found to have been involved in war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. We note the valuable work being carried out by UNMIT's Serious Crimes Investigation Team, but the focus must now be on pursuing this work even more vigorously and

processing outstanding cases more rapidly. We also continue to be concerned by the reports of human rights violations by Timor-Leste's national security forces. We urge that all possible steps be taken to investigate these allegations and hold those responsible to account. The protection of human rights and establishment of robust accountability mechanisms is of central importance to the development of sustainable democracy in Timor-Leste.

The Secretary-General's report confirms that a technical assessment mission will visit Timor-Leste to look at medium-term options for reconfiguring UNMIT. This will be an important opportunity to reflect on how best UNMIT can match resources to outstanding tasks, and we look forward to hearing the Secretary-General's proposals based on those recommendations. We recognize that any adjustments to UNMIT's police component should occur on a gradual, step-by-step basis, but it is also important that UNMIT's structure and size evolve to reflect progress on the ground, including the welcome improvements in the overall security situation.

Our goal should remain to enable Timor-Leste to stand on its own feet in facing the challenges ahead. Achieving that objective will require the continued engagement and support of the international community, including UNMIT. But given our overall objective, it is also right that the focus of our efforts is increasingly on the gradual transfer of responsibilities to the Timor-Leste authorities.

Mr. Urbina (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): I would like to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Atul Khare, for his presentation, and to pay tribute to him for his valuable efforts in support of the people of Timor-Leste. I would also like to express my gratitude to Deputy Prime Minister Guterres for joining us in this morning's debate.

An examination of the last decade in Timor-Leste shows us that there have been strong achievements with regard to nation-building and the establishment of peace. The country's security institutions are being strengthened, as demonstrated by the fact that the national police force has taken over security functions. The democratic process is progressing, as the presidential elections in 2007 have been followed by the recent local elections. In particular, we acknowledge the country's endeavours to promote socio-economic development and achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) regarding primary education and health. Little by little, sustainability is being achieved in Timor-Leste.

Although progress has been made, two major concerns remain: the slow pace of strengthening the rule of law, and, as we stated in a previous debate, the development of an army for which we see no clear purpose. In regard to the rule of law, there are two specific events that we find disturbing: the continuing criticism of the judicial system, which undermines the legitimacy of democratic institutions, and the incident in which a refugee was handed over to the Indonesian authorities, flouting the established legal procedures. In the view of my delegation, the decisions that the political bodies adopted after this incident do not validate actions that undermine the integrity of the law. In addition to developing institutions, a culture of democracy and the rule of law must be fostered.

We also believe it is important to consider the role of the army in the context of security sector reform. President Ramos-Horta was kind enough to explain to us the circumstances justifying the creation of a military apparatus, and he also outlined his personal ideas on that respect. In this context, we urge the Timorese authorities to assign clear tasks to an army that clearly has little defensive utility. Its functions must therefore go beyond merely military activities. It must become an agent for change and play a structural role in the process of nation-building. Border patrols; monitoring increased human trafficking, in which Timor-Leste is becoming a transit hub; support for local communities; the construction of social infrastructure and natural disaster response are some of the tasks whereby that small army could pay society back for the sacrifices it is making with what are very meagre resources.

The successful experience of Timor-Leste holds important lessons for the United Nations regarding the role that the Organization can and should play in matters of peace and State-building. First, United Nations actions in Timor-Leste demonstrate the importance of making an early start in peacekeeping operations and peacebuilding tasks, and of strengthening the links between those two activities in an integrated fashion.

It is also important to stress the importance of United Nations post-conflict cooperation in building

and strengthening local capacities. That is what the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste has done with regard to security, justice and governance institutions in Timor-Leste, helping to guarantee a sustainable peace and the eventual successful exit of a United Nations mission through the consolidation of local institutions.

I cannot fail to point out that the case of Timor-Leste demonstrates the importance of forging a strong, dynamic and symbiotic relation between the international community and the leadership of local actors. The process of peacebuilding in Timor-Leste has been characterized by close association between the United Nations and countries in the region. The ownership and leadership of the people of Timor-Leste have made it possible to take strategic advantage of the assistance of the international community and to assume in a responsible and determined way the challenge of building their country. The Security Council and the Organization should assimilate and profit from the important lessons learned in Timor-Leste.

Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso) (*spoke in French*): We are grateful to the delegation of Viet Nam for having organized this debate on the Secretary-General's report (S/2009/504) on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). We also wish to thank Mr. Atul Khare, Special Representative of the Secretary-General, for his presentation. We also appreciate the contribution made by Mr. José Luis Guterres, Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste.

It is comforting to note that the Government and people of Timor-Leste, with the support of UNMIT and the United Nations system, continue tenaciously to build a stable, democratic and prosperous nation. The climate of calm that prevailed during the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the popular consultation amply demonstrated that. It must be noted that the progress made in strengthening democratic mechanisms and the legislative and institutional framework of democratic governance have contributed greatly to that.

Indeed, the spirit of dialogue and the patriotic momentum resulting from the initiatives of President Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Gusmão in managing issues of national interest — initiatives endorsed by the political opposition during the consideration of draft laws in Parliament — are praiseworthy and demonstrates the resolve of political actors to put national interest above narrow partisan considerations. We hope that the momentum thus created will continue in favour of the further consolidation of national reconciliation. It behooves the people to become involved in this process, for it is ultimately they who will bear the responsibility for building the nation of their choice.

We welcome the strict policy that resulted in the screening and certification of national police officers, which is a guarantee for the credibility of the institution and will, of course, improve the climate of trust between the Government and its people. We also welcome the fact that responsibility for the maintenance of law and order has now been taken on by the National Police; in that regard, we agree with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General regarding the need to abide by the four criteria identified in paragraph 9 of the report and to clearly define the authority devolving to each of the forces operating in the security sector.

From that point of view, we welcome the strengthening of the legislative and regulatory framework governing the police, including the enactment of the new organic law. However, the definition of modalities for the implementation of the new legislation by the National Police and the United Nations police is essential if the desired results are to be achieved. Concurrently, all initiatives to strengthen the security sector must be implemented. However, those objectives will be achieved only if the various initiatives are approached in a realistic and consistent way and enjoy adequate financial backing.

Despite the many activities of UNMIT in many sectors, the promotion and protection of human rights deserve greater support, including in the fight against impunity, the enforcement of sentences, and the compensation of victims and their families. Regarding pending investigations, it is important that every effort be made to remove the obstacles that continue to hamper them. At the judicial level, the adoption of relevant legal texts, including the new penal code and domestic violence legislation, have led to significant progress. They now need to be fully implemented. We hope that the consultations undertaken by the United Nations Development Programme and UNMIT on the needs assessment of the judicial system will lead to the elaboration of a strategic plan and the development of a draft law on mechanisms for traditional justice.

The quest for peace and stability also involves sustainable socio-economic development benefiting the people, especially the most vulnerable. That is why it is essential to ensure that, aside from the relevant policies it has launched, the Government incorporate the Millennium Development Goals into its development programs in order to reduce poverty and improve standards of living. The momentum towards including gender- and age-specific needs among the basic needs of the population is praiseworthy and should be continued. Socio-economic development also requires job creation for young people, including those living in rural areas. We urge the partners and the private sector to continue to help the Government achieve its infrastructure and rural and human resources development programmes. The improvement of agricultural production, especially through modernization of agriculture, could in the long run serve as one of the most solid foundations of the economy and provide genuine investment opportunities.

Among the issues that remain to be addressed is the situation of internally displaced persons and families living in transitional shelters, who need to be reintegrated and rehabilitated. Finally, we are concerned by the recurrence of natural disasters, which are genuine obstacles to sustainable development. That is why we urge Timor-Leste's partners and the international community as a whole to maintain their involvement alongside the Timorese Government.

There is no doubt that considerable progress has been made in Timor-Leste. However, further efforts are needed in order to consolidate those achievements and to support the ongoing process in the country.

In conclusion, we must pay tribute to Mr. Atul Khare. As he prepares to leave his responsibilities as Head of UNMIT, my delegation would like to pay him tribute and wish him every success in the future. We would also like to pay tribute to all the personnel of UNMIT and, more generally, to the United Nations agencies for their determination to help the Timorese people in their search for peace, stability and development. We also welcome the valuable contributions made by neighbouring countries in the framework of regional cooperation.

Mr. Zhang Yesui (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation welcomes the presence of Deputy Prime Minister Guterres of Timor-Leste at this meeting, and we thank him for his statement. We also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Khare, for his comprehensive presentation.

We have noted with pleasure that the situation in Timor-Leste has generally remained calm and stable since the beginning of this year under the leadership of President Ramos-Horta and his Government. The political dialogue among the various factions has further deepened, and ensuring social stability has become an important area of consensus among the leaders of the factions. There has been a reduction in various types of crime, and positive results have been achieved in addressing the issue of internally displaced persons. The National Police of Timor-Leste, with the assistance of United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), have been gradually taking over responsibility for maintaining law and order.

The key to an effective response to the various problems facing the country lies in actions being taken by all factions — in particular, the Government and FRETILIN — who must put aside their previous differences and work in full cooperation. We appreciate the efforts by Prime Minister Gusmão and Special Representative Khare to promote dialogue among the factions. We appeal to the factions to put the interests of the country and its people first and to seize the present favourable opportunity to restore peace and achieve development in order to lead the people in focusing their efforts on nation-building.

Attaining lasting peace and security in the country will require vigorous efforts to develop the economy and improve people's livelihoods. We have noted that despite the momentum of favourable economic growth, the situation still remains fragile. Problems such as poverty and high unemployment may adversely affect the stability and development of the country.

Against the current backdrop, we support the efforts of the Government of Timor-Leste, which, while continuing to strengthen social stability, is prioritizing building infrastructure and the human resources capacity by focusing on improving the economy and raising employment so as effectively to remove those factors that contribute to destabilizing the society. The international community should also continue to provide all kinds of assistance to speed up the nation-building process in Timor-Leste.

With regard to the mandate and composition of UNMIT, we have noted that both the Secretary-General and Special Representative Khare believe that at present we should maintain its current composition and that the reconfiguration of staffing and composition should proceed in a gradual manner. We support that proposal. At the same time, we also believe that in order to ensure public security in Timor-Leste, and in light of the reality in the country and the views of all actors, the United Nations should focus on building the capacity of the police sector for independent law enforcement and should make police training and the handover of policing responsibilities a priority. We hope that UNMIT, out of respect for the views of the Government of Timor-Leste, will eventually be able to pull out of the country smoothly. That will serve as a good example for the formulation of other peacekeeping operations and the implementation of exit strategies.

Both China and Timor-Leste are members of the large family of the Asia and Pacific region. We have therefore been closely following developments in the country and supporting peace, stability and development there. At a recent meeting with Prime Minister Xanana Gusmão, Premier Wen Jiabao of the State Council of China declared that China would provide Timor-Leste with 30 million yuan of gratis assistance. We are ready to continue to help the country to the best of our ability.

Finally, I will also take this opportunity to thank Mr. Khare for his outstanding contribution to maintaining peace and stability in the country during his tenure. We wish him every future success.

Mr. Çorman (Turkey): At the outset, I should like to welcome the Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, His Excellency Mr. José Luís Guterres, and to thank him for his presentation. We are honoured by his presence today.

I should also like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (S/2009/504) and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Atul Khare, not only for his presentation today, but also for his tireless efforts in assisting Timor-Leste. I should like to seize this opportunity to praise Mr. Khare for the outstanding contribution he has made at the head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and to wish him every success in his future endeavours.

It is thanks not only to UNMIT but also, obviously, to the resilience and determination of the people and Government of Timor-Leste that on 30 August the country celebrated the tenth anniversary of the popular consultation that led to its independence. We praise the Government for having made such a peaceful celebration possible only three years after the 2006 crisis and a year and a half on from the dreadful attacks on the President and Prime Minister. That considerable stabilization has enabled the Timorese to address such key issues as the further strengthening of State institutions and democratic governance, as well as the adoption of important legislation to fight corruption.

We welcome the fact that local elections were held successfully and without major incidents on 9 October 2009, proving that the Timorese people are committed to democracy and that the political parties are demonstrating respect for democratic principles and processes.

We are also glad to see that the security situation in Timor-Leste has been steadily improving since February of last year, with substantial progress in addressing the situation of internally displaced persons (IDPs). We are quite pleased that all 65 IDP camps in Dili and Baucau had been officially closed by the end of August. We hope that the process of handing over policing responsibilities from UNMIT to the Timorese national police will continue to be as smooth as it has been so far. In that respect, we are pleased to note that the resumption of primary police responsibilities by the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) in three districts and at the police training centre has not led to an increase in criminal activities.

We continue to support the Secretary-General's gradual approach in this matter and welcome further progress achieved in the registration, screening and certification programme for the PNTL in accordance with the policing arrangements. Further progress to enhance security sector reform, internal security and national defence, as well as the adoption of a national security strategy, are of utmost importance. Improving the justice sector and its institutions is of equal importance.

Despite these considerable achievements, the main issues that contributed to the 2006 crisis, as mentioned in the Secretary-General's report — such as poverty, unemployment, the lack of an effective land

and property regime and a weak judicial system — continue to pose significant challenges, and they need to be thoroughly addressed in order to anchor stability in Timor-Leste.

Given the progress that has been achieved so far, we are confident that Timor-Leste will eventually overcome all these challenges. However, this requires continued national dialogue and unity. Therefore, we join the Secretary-General in encouraging the parliament and the Government to continue efforts at broad consultations. We also believe that Timor-Leste requires continued support from the international community in its quest for peace, stability and prosperity. We thus agree with the Secretary-General's recommendation that the present strength and composition of UNMIT should be maintained. The recommendations of the technical assessment mission expected to visit Timor-Leste in January of next year will be crucial for evaluating possible adjustments in UNMIT's mandate and strength.

Let me conclude by saluting once more the owners of the normalization process, namely the Timorese people and Government, and by wishing them continued success.

Mr. Rugunda (Uganda): We join other Council members in welcoming the Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, His Excellency Mr. José Luis Guterres. We thank him for his statement. We also thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Atul Khare, for his briefing.

The report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/504) and the statement we just heard from the Deputy Prime Minister show that positive progress is being made in Timor-Leste. However, it is clear that, despite the progress, there is a need to continue to focus on key strategic areas.

We are pleased to note that the process of security sector reform in Timor-Leste is progressing well, especially with the commencement of the gradual transfer of policing responsibilities to Timorese police. We remain hopeful that further progress will be made to facilitate completion of the transfer, as per the agreed criteria. Every effort should be made to support the Timorese police in achieving the key criteria, especially in terms of operational and logistical requirements.

We also note that, while efforts to enhance the development of the Timorese military continue, not much progress has been made. We therefore share the observation of the Secretary-General that finding a meaningful role for the Timorese military in a peacetime setting and clarifying its relationship with the Timorese police and establishing accountability mechanisms remain key challenges for the Government.

These are issues that will have to be resolved in order to ensure that the long-term stability of the country is achieved.

Internal displacement is a matter of concern and interest to Uganda. We are happy to note that the improved security situation has contributed to the progress that has been made in addressing the situation of internally displaced persons, especially in Dili and Baucau. However, there is need to address potentially destabilizing recovery issues, such as those relating to housing conditions and land and property.

On the administration of justice, we note the potential repercussions of the release of Martenus Bere. The fact that a vote of no confidence motion was submitted against the Government points to how politically sensitive this matter is considered to be by sectors of the Timorese people. It is critical that deliberate efforts be made to ensure that impunity is not condoned.

It is important that the Government of Timor-Leste take primary responsibility for the economic recovery, security and development of the country, with the support of the international community. The international community should support and facilitate national institutional development, with a view to ensuring that there is local capacity to play a leadership role on all aspects of national development. That is key to the sustainable national development of the country. We welcome, therefore, the Timorese people's increased leadership in and ownership of the national development process.

Finally, we commend the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Khare, and the entire staff of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) for the efforts they have made in delivering on UNMIT's mandate.

This being Mr. Atul Khare's last appearance before the Council in his capacity as head of UNMIT,

Uganda pays special tribute to him for his dedication and commitment in support of the people of Timor-Leste. Mr. Khare has made an important contribution, and we wish him all the very best in his future endeavours.

Mr. Dolgov (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We too are grateful to Mr. Atul Khare, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, for his presentation of the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) (S/2009/504) and for his analysis of the situation in the country. We also thank, Mr. José Luis Guterres, Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, for his comprehensive statement.

This year, the people of Timor-Leste commemorated the tenth anniversary of the popular referendum in a situation of stability and security. We congratulate the people and the leaders of Timor-Leste on that noteworthy event. During the process of building a State, Dili was faced with serious challenges and crises, but, with the effective support of the United Nations and the international community, the young State overcame these and many other difficulties.

We note with satisfaction the substantial progress that has been achieved in overcoming the consequences of the 2006 crisis. This has provided an opportunity to advance national dialogue and reconciliation. This month saw the successful holding of elections for community authorities, with the assistance of UNMIT. The time has come to tackle other priority tasks to strengthen this young independent State: strengthening State and security institutions; establishing the rule of law and public order; enhancing the judicial system; ensuring social and economic development; eradicating poverty; creating jobs for the population; and improving the human rights situation. Those objectives will be achieved only if efforts are pooled and if there is cooperation among all the country's political forces and civil society.

Strengthening the national security forces is of priority importance for restoring stability in Timor-Leste and constitutes an important indicator of the independence of that State. We welcome the start of the process of transferring law and order responsibilities from UNMIT to the Timorese police. It is significant that the transfer timetable is being implemented on the basis of mutually agreed criteria with respect to readiness rather than on the basis of artificial deadlines.

Despite the progress that has been achieved in a number of areas, including with respect to security and stability — thanks in large part to the United Nations presence — this is fragile. A potential threat is posed by social and economic difficulties, impunity, human rights problems, the weakness of the judicial system and other emerging risks. Taking that into account, we share the assessment of the Secretary-General regarding the utility of maintaining United Nations Mission levels until the end of the Mission's current mandate. We await further recommendations on the reconfiguration of the Mission in the Secretary-General's next report.

We wish to convey to the head of UNMIT, Mr. Atul Khare, and to the Mission staff our gratitude for their professionalism and selfless efforts in fulfilling their mandate. As we understand it, Mr. Khare's work in this position is coming to an end, and we wish to wish him every possible success and fruitful activities in his future endeavours. We are convinced that his contributions will again be required within the United Nations system.

UNMIT's police component includes Russian police officers. My country will continue to support the activities of this Mission and its cooperation with the authorities and people of Timor-Leste.

Mr. Vilović (Croatia): Croatia deeply appreciates the personal participation of Deputy Prime Minister José Guterres in our deliberations and would like to thank both him and Special Representative Atul Khare for their contributions in today's debate on Timor-Leste.

Croatia aligns itself with the statement of the European Union to be delivered later.

Croatia welcomes the Secretary-General's latest progress report on Timor-Leste (S/2009/504), presented by Special Representative Khare. It is a very timely report, which comes on the tail of a very important juncture in that country's history. The tenth anniversary of Timor-Leste's historic vote for independence on 30 August represented a significant benchmark indicating how far the Timorese people have come in such a short time. We also remember those who lost their lives during the violence in the

aftermath of the 2006 crisis, including those serving in the United Nations Mission there.

We also recognize the crucial contributions that United Nations missions have made since the country's independence, as well as the tireless efforts of the respective special representatives and their teams in supporting Timorese-led nation-building efforts. We reaffirm our full support for the people of Timor-Leste and urge them not waiver from their important endeavours in the face of the current political, institutional and socio-economic challenges.

We meet today, at a time when the security situation in Timor-Leste has remained calm, to review progress in critical areas of focus under the renewed mandate of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) since February this year. We note the Secretary-General's assessment of continued incremental progress in the four mandated priority areas.

Ensuring the long-term security and stability of Timor-Leste is contingent on national security institutions functioning in a professional and accountable manner. Croatia is therefore encouraged to learn that during the reporting period that has been at the forefront of the minds of the Timorese leadership. We welcome their efforts for the institutional strengthening of security institutions, enhancing security-sector legal frameworks and stepping up efforts to establish a national security policy.

The Timorese authorities should continue to take full advantage of UNMIT's expertise while undertaking that process. If designed and implemented correctly, those reforms will allow for a comprehensive overhaul of the security sector, shored up by requisite civil oversight, the rule of law, transparency and enhanced mechanisms of internal accountability for both security institutions. It will further pave the way for an integrated approach to security and defence functions, while clearly defining meaningful roles for both the National Police Force of Timor-Leste (PNTL) and Falintil-Forças de Defensa de Timor-Leste (F-FDTL).

Croatia has listened with great interest to Mr. Khare on the progress in the transfer of primary policing responsibilities to the PNTL. While progress has been made in the resumption of primary policing responsibilities, it is important that that process continue steadily to ensure continuing public confidence in the current stable security situation.

As the situation evolves on the ground, Croatia fully supports regular reviews of possible configurations of the size of UNMIT's police component, to ensure appropriate alignment of its capabilities. In that connection we look forward to the technical assessment mission visit to Timor-Leste in the coming months and its findings thereafter. However, at this crucial juncture, we believe that the current engagement of UNMIT's police component needs to be retained for the time being. It continues to serve an important role in interim law enforcement until the PNTL has been fully reconstituted. In assuming an effective oversight role in districts already transferred to the national police, UNMIT could ensure that resumption of policing responsibilities by the national police continues smoothly and without incident.

We are encouraged by reports of progress achieved in human rights areas, including systematic strengthening of the judicial system and enactment of important legislation. We commend the decision by the High-level Coordination Committee chaired by President Ramos-Horta to conduct an independent comprehensive needs assessment. That should open the way for a coordinated and carefully considered approach to justice sector reform and help prioritize those areas requiring international assistance. We look forward to those recommendations in the near future.

However, the long-term consolidation of peace in Timor-Leste cannot take hold in the absence of a viable environment in which there is a credible and functioning judiciary and penal system and in which the rule of law prevails.

The successful holding of local elections on 9 October represented another important benchmark in the country's progress towards a culture of political dialogue and democratic governance. We hope that the people of Timor-Leste will use it as positive momentum to further drive forward its democratic process in which national dialogue is a central tenet.

Furthermore, Croatia commends the Timorese leadership for their accomplishments to date towards resolving an important residual challenge from the 2006 crisis, namely that of internally displaced persons (IDPs). We particularly welcome the news that the Government has closed the camps in Dili and Baucau.

Bearing in mind the serious socio-economic challenges Timor-Leste faces today, it is essential for the long-term consolidation of the country's peace and stability that more concerted efforts are made by the Government towards improving the quality of life for all Timorese people. Such efforts must also include durable solutions to alleviate potential destabilizing situations after the IDP challenge has been resolved. In that respect, perhaps there could be more focus on integrating more peacebuilding efforts aimed at social inclusion and cohesion for all Timorese people, through long-term sustainable development.

The Secretary-General, in his latest progress report, has highlighted the continued strength of the resolve of the people of Timor-Leste to build a more peaceful and stable future for themselves, especially since the crisis of 2006 and the attacks in 2008. To that end UNMIT has played a vital role in restoring and maintaining stability and in the crucial areas of security sector reform, democratic governance, rule of law and socio-economic development.

However, given that significant residual challenges from 2006 could pose serious risks to the long-term stability and development of the country, Croatia, like others, deems continued international presence and assistance necessary for the immediate period ahead. In that respect, the United Nations presence, under UNMIT's capable stewardship, can continue to play a critical role in providing assistance to Timorese-led State-building efforts in the four mandated priority areas.

Finally, as this was Special Representative Khare's final briefing to the Council in his official function, Croatia would like to take this opportunity to thank him for all his tireless efforts and capable leadership of the Mission. We wish him the very best in his future endeavours.

Mr. Heller (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation is pleased to welcome Deputy Prime Minister José Luís Guterres, to whom we express our gratitude for the progress achieved in his country and the good relations that he has maintained with the United Nations presence over the last decade.

We also are especially grateful for the report (S/2009/504) presented by Mr. Atul Khare, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste. I take this opportunity to once again express our thanks to him and commend the excellent job he and his Office have done in supporting the Government of Timor-Leste. They have provided a comprehensive model worthy for use in United Nations efforts in other areas of the world. We express our deep gratitude for that and wish him every success for the future.

Just a few months after celebrating the tenth anniversary of the referendum in Timor-Leste, which laid the foundations of the country's independence, we are pleased to see a climate of stability and strengthened governance in that country. There is no doubt that United Nations support to the Government of Timor-Leste has provided the country with the opportunity to shape its own future. In this context, we believe that Timor-Leste should continue to enjoy the benefits of the presence and support of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), in order to continue to make progress on matters such as security, justice, human rights, development and democratic governance.

When the Security Council met to discuss Timor-Leste on 19 February (see S/PV.6085), Mexico stated that it was important to strengthen the machinery for transparency and accountability in the government sector. Today we welcome the fact that the parliament has adopted a law establishing an anti-corruption commission and that ratification instruments of the United Nations Convention against Corruption have been deposited. That will contribute to further strengthening democratic governance in that country.

We also commend the continued support of UNMIT in the process of transferring command to enable the National Police to assume the policing responsibilities thus far carried out by the Mission. We consider that complete transfer must occur once the criteria laid down in the agreement signed between Special Representative Khare and Prime Minister Gusmão have been met, with particular emphasis on United Nations certification of national officers and on ensuring that the National Police is accepted by its own community and is strengthened as an institution so that it can exercise real control.

We are aware that the road to strengthening the rule of law and guaranteeing human rights still holds many challenges. We support UNMIT's endeavours to support the Government in its institution-building and in implementing the recommendations of the Commission for Reception, Truth and Reconciliation and the Commission of Truth and Friendship.

Mexico agrees with the report of the Secretary-General and believes that, in line with the United Nations position, there should be no amnesty or impunity for war crimes, crimes against humanity or genocide. We urge the Government to cooperate closely with the independent Special Commission of Inquiry to address unresolved cases of crimes committed during the crises of 1999 and 2006, pursuant to resolutions 1704 (2006) and 1802 (2008). We also recommend that the Timor-Leste authorities intensify their cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

On the issue of internally displaced persons (IDPs), it is important to highlight the achievement of closing the country's 65 IDP camps. We support the Government's efforts to promptly meet the needs of the nearly 3,000 IDPs still in temporary shelters and to facilitate their return to their places of origin in an atmosphere of calm and reconciliation.

We also welcome the progress achieved less than a year ago through the signing of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2009-2013 by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Prime Minister. We trust that the Framework will continue to promote democratization and social cohesion and make it possible to meet the major challenges of unemployment, the fight against poverty and providing access to basic social services in the country.

I wish to conclude by welcoming the widespread atmosphere of peace in which the recent municipal and village elections took place on 9 October. This reflects the commitment of the people of Timor-Leste to strengthening democracy and its institutions. Mexico reaffirms its readiness to continue its cooperation with the Timorese authorities in this sphere, as demonstrated by our support in the preparations for and holding of the recent elections through Mexico's Federal Electoral Institute.

Mr. Mayr-Harting (Austria): I would like to join my colleagues in welcoming Deputy Prime Minister Guterres and thanking him for his important statement. I further wish to thank the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for his extremely useful briefing.

Austria aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the representative of Sweden on behalf of the European Union later today. Let me nevertheless make the following specific points.

We were encouraged by the climate of calm that prevailed during the celebrations on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the 1999 referendum. At the same time, we would like to take this opportunity to remember those, including members of the United Nations Mission, who lost their lives at the time.

We salute the fact that the process of the return and resettlement of internally displaced persons has nearly been completed. We also wish to congratulate, as others have done, the Government of Timor-Leste on the successful conduct of the recent elections at the community level.

We welcome the efforts to promote inclusive dialogue and national reconciliation. For these endeavours to be successful, some of the root causes of the 2006 crisis still need to be fully tackled. Timor-Leste continues to face important challenges in reducing poverty and creating new employment opportunities. The Government of Timor-Leste therefore rightly stresses that there is an increasing need to move from conflict prevention to a comprehensive development agenda. The United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) can play a key role in that evolution. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General has already drawn the attention of the Council to the important contribution provided by the European Union and its member States in this regard.

We support the authorities of Timor-Leste in their endeavours to build strong institutions that can fight impunity for grave violations of human rights. As the Secretary-General has reminded us, further — albeit as yet incomplete — progress has been made in holding accountable those responsible for criminal acts and human rights violations during the 2006 crisis. In that regard, we welcome the recommendations made by UNMIT, in cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, to strengthen accountability for human rights violations, and we hope for their rapid implementation.

It is important that the National Police of Timor-Leste is making and continues to make progress in resuming its primary policing responsibilities, including through the police training academy. We also welcome the swearing in, last week, of international prosecutors and clerks who can support the judiciary of Timor-Leste.

The successful re-establishment of a functioning rule of law system is crucial for achieving long-term stability. That requires the continued review and reform of the security sector at all levels. It also calls for the strengthening of the police and the judiciary, the adoption of relevant legislation, such as the new penal code, and a clear division of responsibilities and competencies between the police, on the one side, and the military, on the other. In our view, the military could, for instance, place greater emphasis on areas such as disaster relief and international peacekeeping. Those are also fields in which my own country has some experience and are areas of action where the armed forces of smaller and medium-sized countries might be able to provide appropriate training and advice.

Since this is the last time for Mr. Khare to brief the Council in his capacity as Special Representative, in closing, I would like to join others in thanking him for his important contribution to the peace process over the past three years. We have seen significant changes in Timor-Leste since 2006, also thanks to the work of UNMIT under Mr. Khare's leadership. The benchmarks that UNMIT has established will continue to provide us with an excellent strategic framework to assess progress in the four priority areas, and that in turn will facilitate the review, as well as possible future adjustments to UNMIT's mandate.

Mr. Dabbashi (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to welcome the Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Mr. Guterres, and to thank him for his valuable participation in this meeting. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Mr. Khare, for his briefing and for his very valuable contribution to peace in Timor-Leste. I would like to pay tribute to the efforts of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) under his leadership, which have contributed to stability and progress in Timor-Leste.

We have followed the developments in Timor-Leste with great interest, and we again welcome the continuing stability and calm in that country and the progress made towards peace, as reflected in the State authorities' response to the recent crisis and the measures taken to restore stability and security in order to continue working towards steady socio-economic development. We note with satisfaction the closure of most of the camps for refugees and internally displaced persons without any incidents, as well as the ongoing reintegration of the petitioners of the Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste (F-FDTL) into civilian life. We note as well the adoption of administrative reform measures and anti-corruption laws.

We believe that it is important to devote greater attention to the post-reintegration phase in order to enable all citizens to earn a living and to enjoy access to basic necessities, such as water and other services, because that is one of the prerequisites for lasting stability in the country. It is evident that Timor-Leste has achieved substantial progress. However, there are still many challenges, such as poverty, unemployment, the lack of an effective land and property management. In addition, the State institutions remain fragile, including shortcomings in the justice and law-enforcement sectors. In that regard, primary responsibility for the adoption of a comprehensive approach to the four priority areas lies with the Timorese authorities. Those are security sector reform, State building and the rule of law, the promotion of a culture of democratic governance and governance, and socio-economic development, so that greater progress within the context of the medium-term strategy, in cooperation and coordination with UNMIT and the United Nations country team, can be achieved.

We note with satisfaction the efforts of President Ramos-Horta to strengthen the ongoing dialogue among the various political parties, as well as all segments of society. It is evident that the statements made recently by the various influential political parties and the measures that they have taken clearly demonstrate their respect for the rule of law and all State institutions. We hope that that constructive spirit will prevail so as to ensure that a democratic society enjoying peace and stability continues to be built.

During this period, it is important that we continue to strengthen and advance the State institutions, especially their capacities, in order to enable them to fully meet their responsibilities, in particular in the fields of security and socio-economic development and respect for the rule of law and human rights, and to ensure that understanding and tolerance prevail.

We welcome the Secretary-General's recommendations and agree with him when he states that much remains to be done in Timor-Leste (see S/2009/504, para. 53). That is why we support his

comment with regard to maintaining the strength and composition of the Mission at the current levels, and we look forward to the recommendations of the technical assessment team.

Mr. De Rivière (France) (*spoke in French*): The Permanent Representative of Sweden will shortly deliver a statement on behalf of the European Union, with which France associates itself.

Allow me to make a few additional remarks. First, I wish to welcome presence of the Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, Mr. José Luís Guterres, among us and to convey to him France's congratulations on the successful celebration of the tenth anniversary of the 1999 self-determination referendum. That anniversary is an opportunity to take stock of the impressive path taken by the country on the way towards independence, peace and prosperity. That success is primarily owed to the Timorese people and political officials. However, it would not have been possible without the commitment of the international community.

In that regard, I would like to pay tribute to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the occasion of his last appearance before our Council. In the many years that he has spent in East Timor, Mr. Atul Khare has worked tirelessly beside and for the people. Through his discreet but effective action to support the authorities, he played a part in the emergence of a new State on the international scene. Allow me to underscore the very positive role also played by neighbouring countries, in particular Indonesia, Australia and New Zealand, whose support has contributed to maintaining stability in the country.

Consolidating the progress achieved will take time. The events of 2006 demonstrated the consequences of a hasty withdrawal of the United Nations. The reassuring presence of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and the international security forces will therefore continue to be essential to stability in the near future. We are pleased that, as Mr. Khare has just explained, UNMIT's activity is part of a medium-term strategy aimed at having the Timorese progressively take over the tasks currently undertaken by the United Nations. With respect in particular to the transfer of responsibility for law and order in the districts, it will be possible in six months to assess the situation and draw the appropriate lessons in adapting the Mission's mandate, format and composition.

In that connection, we welcome the forthcoming technical assessment mission to Timor-Leste, pursuant to the demand made by the Security Council and the Secretary-General for improved follow-up to peacekeeping operations, particularly with regard to police activities. The technical assessment mission will also allow us to update the Mission's planning documents, pursuant to resolution 1867 (2009).

The Secretary-General quite rightly emphasizes in his report (S/2009/504) the importance to lasting reconciliation of combating impunity for past crimes. We share the concerns expressed by the Special Representative and reiterate our support for UNMIT's activities in support of the Prosecutor-General of Timor-Leste, including with respect to the Serious Crimes Investigation Team.

Ms. DiCarlo (United States of America): I would like to extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. José Guterres, Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, to the Council today, and to congratulate him on the achievements of the Timorese people. I would also like to welcome Special Representative Khare and thank him for his comprehensive briefing.

Timor-Leste has made significant progress since the political crisis and violence of 2006. Although the situation remains fragile, the Timorese commitment to peace is clear. It was on full display on 30 August, when Timor-Leste celebrated the tenth anniversary of the popular consultation. My Government welcomes the progress which the Timorese have made in the area of security, in particular in the development of a national security policy and draft security legislation, and we recognize the increased professionalization of the Timorese police and military, as witnessed by their efforts to ensure a secure and stable environment following the February 2008 assassination attempts on the President and Prime Minister.

The recent transfer of policing responsibilities from the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) to the National Police of Timor-Leste in three districts was a step forward, and we hope to see further such transfers to the Timorese police in the near future. We also encourage the Timorese, as they continue to develop their national security policy, to clearly delineate the roles of the police and the

military — an essential element of effective rule of law and administration of justice.

The United States is committed to assisting Timor-Leste to develop its security sector. We have increased our military cooperation and are currently conducting training exercises in Timor-Leste and neighbouring Indonesia. We are pleased that key Timorese decision-makers have accepted our invitation to participate in programmes at the Asia-Pacific Center on Security Studies in Hawaii for the second consecutive year.

Timor-Leste has also made progress in democratic governance and rule of law. We congratulate the Timorese on carrying out peaceful local elections and commend UNMIT for its support to this process. We also applaud President Ramos-Horta's initiative to open a broad dialogue with the Timorese people on priority issues. But a critical element of democratic governance is an independent judiciary. We therefore encourage the Government of Timor-Leste to continue its administrative reforms, including the development of legislative frameworks and a justice sector that establishes accountability for criminal offences and puts an end to impunity for grave violations of human rights. We believe that the recommendations of the independent comprehensive needs assessment of the justice sector could provide critical tools for reforming the sector and improving accountability.

Social cohesion and economic development are key to long-term stability. The recent closing of camps for internally displaced persons and the safe return and resettlement of those individuals are important steps towards reconciliation. Further, we acknowledge the progress that Timorese officials have made in addressing the national priorities outlined in the international compact for Timor-Leste (see S/2008/501, para. 36) and the measures the Government is taking to improve access to primary education, decrease malnutrition, lower unemployment levels and increase child protection. It is critical that the Timorese leadership continue these efforts to reduce poverty and create additional employment — a priority benchmark identified in the Secretary-General's report (S/2009/504).

For our part, the United States will continue to support the Timorese people in these efforts. We have provided $24 million this year to support an array of programmes, including in health, rural economic development and judicial reform.

Let me conclude by paying tribute to Special Representative Khare and thanking him for his dedicated efforts to advance stability and prosperity in Timor-Leste. We would like to wish him every success in his future endeavours.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my national capacity.

I welcome the participation of His Excellency Mr. José Luís Guterres, Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, in the Council's meeting today and thank him for his statement. I thank Special Representative of the Secretary-General Atul Khare for his briefing and commend him for his contributions, over the three years since he assumed his position as head of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), to the process of peacebuilding and development in the country. As this may be the last time Mr. Khare is attending a Council meeting in his present capacity, I wish him still greater successes in his future endeavours.

We align ourselves with the joint statement of the members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to be delivered by the Ambassador of Thailand.

We are encouraged by the efforts of the Government and people of Timor-Leste, especially in maintaining an overall calm public security situation conducive to the realization of the country's political, social and economic objectives. The period under review has seen, inter alia, the achievement of over 60 per cent of the socio-economic development targets set for the first and second quarters of this year, the successful commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the popular consultation, visibly improved legislative processes, continued dialogue and reconciliation, and the holding of elections at the local level.

These results have been made possible thanks, first of all, to the strong determination of the Government and people of Timor-Leste to move the national peace and development process forward. We commend the Government of Timor-Leste and President José Ramos-Horta personally for their commitment to strengthening national unity by building consensus; enhancing political dialogue, consultation, reconciliation and mediation; and promoting progress in addressing the situation of

internally displaced persons, a major issue resulting from the 2006 crisis. These measures, together with the endorsed parliamentary plans to intensify administrative and legislative reforms, combat corruption and enhance capacity, will enable State institutions to better discharge their challenging tasks ahead with broader public support. The active and constructive participation of people from all walks of life in Timor-Leste in the country's political process is more than ever of colossal significance in implementing these measures.

We highly appreciate the efforts of UNMIT in carrying out its mandate of providing assistance to Timor-Leste, including in maintaining public security, organizing local elections, and implementing legal and police capacity-building projects with a view to helping the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) assume its responsibilities through a gradual and phased process. In this connection, we welcome the smooth handover of primary policing responsibilities in three districts and at the Police Training Center from UNMIT to the Government of Timor-Leste. We are convinced that reviews of this initial step by relevant agencies will produce useful lessons on how to proceed more effectively in the next stages of the transfer of police responsibility to the PNTL, ultimately leading to full ownership by Timor-Leste of its peace process.

However, as indicated in the Secretary-General's report (S/2009/504), the imminent challenges to the stability and development of Timor-Leste, particularly poverty, unemployment and the immaturity of security institutions, leave no room for complacency. Apart from the intensified efforts required of the Government and the people of Timor-Leste, the international community needs to continue to be committed to the cause of peace and development in the country, with priority given to strengthening the security sector and improving basic education, health care and nutrition, child protection and rural development aimed at meeting internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals. In implementing UNMIT's mandate, especially in priority areas, its coordination with the Government of Timor-Leste and with other United Nations partners such as the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework should be further strengthened.

As a country in the region and a close neighbour of Timor-Leste, Viet Nam has always and will continue to support and assist the Government and the people of Timor-Leste in their cause of peace, revival and development to the very best of its ability.

I now resume my function as President of the Council.

I give the floor to the representative of Thailand.

Mr. Sinhaseni (Thailand): I have the honour to speak today on behalf of the 10 States members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Viet Nam and Thailand.

ASEAN would like to congratulate Viet Nam, a fellow ASEAN member State, on its assumption of the presidency of the Security Council for the month of October, and on convening the debate on this issue, which is of vital importance to our region.

ASEAN warmly welcomes back to New York His Excellency Mr. José Luís Guterres, Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, himself a close friend of ASEAN. ASEAN appreciates his personal participation in the recent ASEAN Regional Forum held in Phuket, Thailand, in July 2009, and his message of commitment to strengthening relations with ASEAN.

ASEAN also thanks and pays tribute to Mr. Atul Khare, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, and to the men and women of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), for their dedication in supporting the Government and the people of Timor-Leste in the nation-building process. We join in wishing Mr. Khare well in his future endeavours.

From the beginning, several ASEAN Member States have contributed troops and police units to successive United Nations missions in Timor-Leste, including the current mission, UNMIT. That, in itself, is a testament of ASEAN's support for the United Nations on this issue.

I would like to take this opportunity to share ASEAN's views on a few points as follows. First, ASEAN welcomes the continued progress achieved in Timor-Leste in all four mandated areas of UNMIT, namely review and reform of the security sector, strengthening of the rule of law, promoting a culture of democratic governance and dialogue, and economic

and social development. We congratulate the Government and the people of Timor-Leste on having successfully held, on 30 August, the celebration of the tenth anniversary of the popular consultation as well as on having successfully held local elections in early October; we believe that these were important milestones for the country.

ASEAN is pleased that the overall security situation remains calm and that there has been substantial progress in addressing the two residual consequences of the 2006 crisis. In particular, we note with satisfaction that all 65 camps for internally displaced persons were officially closed without significant incident and the reintegration of the "petitioners" into civilian life has proceeded smoothly. We are confident that Timor-Leste will continue to move ahead in this positive direction.

Secondly, ASEAN is pleased that, since May, the national police of Timor-Leste has started to gradually resume primary policing responsibilities in some districts or units on the basis of the criteria for resumption that were mutually agreed between the Government of Timor-Leste and UNMIT. ASEAN strongly supports further international efforts, both in terms of bilateral and multilateral assistance, to support Timor-Leste in strengthening the capacity of its national police. We also support efforts to establish clear command and control arrangements between security institutions in border areas and to establish accountability mechanisms and civilian oversight of those security institutions.

Thirdly, ASEAN fully supports the strong commitment of the Government of Timor-Leste to promote the socio-economic development of the country, which has resulted in steady progress in areas of national priority. We also support the Government's commitment to mainstream the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) into its national development strategy. Here, we must not allow the world financial and economic crisis to adversely affect international assistance and partnership for Timor-Leste. As Timor-Leste proceeds with its nation-building process, development assistance from international partners is vital to help the country through this delicate period.

With that in mind, as noted by the Special Representative, individual ASEAN Member States are working closely with the Government of Timor-Leste in areas that are consistent with the latter's national priorities, such as poverty eradication, employment generation, food security, rural development, fisheries, infrastructure development, public health and human resource development.

Fourthly, ASEAN supports the recommendation in the Secretary-General's report (S/2009/504) that the present strength and composition of UNMIT, including its formed police units, should be maintained while Timor-Leste is undergoing the delicate process of security sector reform. Continued peace and stability will be essential for socio-economic development and efforts to lay a strong and durable foundation for democratic governance of the country. At the same time, ASEAN believes that we should be clear about the future role of the United Nations in Timor-Leste and about how best to ensure a smooth transition from peacekeeping to durable peacebuilding. In that connection, ASEAN looks forward to recommendations by the Secretary-General in his next report on possible adjustments to UNMIT's mandate and strength.

On a final point, which we feel is most important, ASEAN wishes to reiterate that the principle of national ownership should be, not only a principle that guides every facet of UNMIT's work, but also the ultimate goal of the international community in Timor-Leste. ASEAN strongly believes that it is of vital importance to ensure ownership by the leaders and the people of Timor-Leste of any strategy and benchmarks that the United Nations would develop for the country. We should all strive for a nation-building process that is a process of, by, and for the people of Timor-Leste. Here, ASEAN stands firm in solidarity with Timor-Leste as a regional partner and, above all, as a friend.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Sweden.

Mr. Lidén (Sweden): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union (EU). Turkey, Croatia, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova and Armenia align themselves with this statement.

The European Union congratulates Timor-Leste on the tenth anniversary of the 30 August referendum, which gave the country its long-awaited independence. The groundbreaking State-building effort that has followed since then is a major achievement, even if

many challenges remain. The EU takes this opportunity to remember the many Timorese who lost their lives during the violence at the time of the referendum. We would also like to pay tribute to those who have died while serving in United Nations missions in Timor-Leste.

As highlighted in the Secretary-General's latest report (S/2009/504), important steps have been taken over the past year to address the security situation and develop the State's structures, but the events of February last year were a reminder that the long-term stability and sustainable development of Timor-Leste cannot be taken for granted. The United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) will continue to play an important role in assisting Timor-Leste in the period ahead.

The successful conclusion of the local elections on 9 October was another milestone in Timor-Leste's democratic process. The manner in which they were held showed that important progress has been made in institutional capacity-building and democratic governance. We encourage the authorities to conduct the district and municipal elections in 2010 in the same spirit. It is also encouraging that the security situation in Timor-Leste has remained calm in recent months.

Substantial progress has been made in addressing the situation of internally displaced persons. The EU commends the Timor-Leste Government for its accomplishment in closing the camps for internally displaced persons in Dili and Baucau.

The EU concurs with the Secretary-General's view that, for the time being, UNMIT should maintain its current strength, including the police units' capability to assume interim law functions if requested to do so. At the same time, the process of handing over responsibilities to the national police force must continue with a view to setting the stage for a future transition and the drawdown of UNMIT.

There is a link between security sector reform and the eventual scaling down of UNMIT. We welcome the Government's efforts to further develop a national security policy and to strengthen security sector legal frameworks. The role of the national defence forces in a peacetime setting must be defined, and their relationship with the national police force clarified. A comprehensive and coherent concept for the entire security sector should be developed, including the establishment of accountability and civilian oversight mechanisms.

Another critical challenge in the coming period will be to build a sustainable socio-economic system that can create jobs and help fulfil the basic social service functions of a State. The European Union encourages Timor-Leste to make use of the Petroleum Fund for future investment projects and to stimulate the non-oil part of the economy, with a focus on job creation and infrastructure.

For the period of 2008 to 2013, the European Union is providing support of about €200 million, with particular attention paid to key public sector areas. The European Union aims to support labour-intensive work programmes, mainly through the implementation of the rural development programme.

We welcome the efforts to develop an integrated strategic framework that outlines goals and activities in support of State-building in Timor-Leste. Concrete benchmarks will enable the international community to further focus its assistance on priority areas and facilitate UNMIT's eventual drawdown. We also look forward to the revised national development plan signalling Government ownership of the process, which will give donors the longer-term orientation they need.

Since 1999, the European Union has provided the people of Timor-Leste with more than €800 million in development and humanitarian assistance. Our assistance will continue, and we look forward to an active partnership with the Government and the people of Timor-Leste in the period ahead.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Portugal.

Mr. Moraes Cabral (Portugal): Portugal welcomes the opportunity to be associated once again with the Council's deliberations on Timor-Leste. I wish to express our gratitude to you, Mr. President, for convening this meeting.

As previous speakers have done, allow me to extend warm greetings to Deputy Prime Minister José Luis Guterres and to express our appreciation for his valuable contribution to the present debate. Allow me also to thank Mr. Atul Khare for his very useful report.

Portugal of course concurs with the statement delivered by the representative of Sweden on behalf of the European Union, but as a representative of a country that has had a long shared history with Timor-Leste, I would like to underline some specific points.

This reporting period was marked by the tenth anniversary of the popular consultation of 30 August 1999, in which the people of Timor-Leste expressed their strong will for independence. Despite all the difficulties, Timor-Leste has since then pursued the path of consolidating peace, democratic stability and economic development. Portugal commends the Government of Timor-Leste for its achievements in addressing long-standing security and economic challenges, reinforcing political stability and addressing the situation of internally displaced persons, thus surmounting the grievances of the dramatic crisis of May 2006.

In that context, I wish to underline the resumption of operational responsibilities by the National Police of Timor-Leste through a gradual process agreed with the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), which should be fully achieved in the near future. We encourage the Timorese authorities in that regard. Parliament and the development of political dialogue have also had an important role in reinforcing democratic governance and the consolidation of the State. The elections recently held at the local level were another milestone in the democratic process. We encourage further steps to consolidate the democratic institutions of Timor-Leste.

UNMIT played a central role in that process, actively contributing to the achievements in all four areas of its mandate: the review and reform of the security sector, the strengthening of the rule of law, economic and social development, and the promotion of a culture of democratic governance, including enhancing political dialogue.

Portugal concurs with the Secretary-General's view concerning the need for renewed dialogue across the entire political spectrum and all segments of society. We also share the view that long-term security and stability will depend on the capacity of the security institutions to function in an accountable and effective manner and with due respect for the rule of law and human rights.

The people of Timor-Leste have repeatedly demonstrated their resolve to build a democratic, peaceful and stable society. However, the consolidation of those objectives requires continued support from the international community. It is important that the people of Timor-Leste know that they do not stand alone when it comes to their endeavours.

For those reasons, we believe that UNMIT should maintain its current strength for the time being, including the police capability to assume interim functions. At the same time, the process of handing over responsibilities to the national police must continue with a view to laying the groundwork for a future transition and drawdown of UNMIT.

Another critical challenge in the near future will be to build a sustainable economy that is nurtured by a culture of accountable and transparent governance, creates jobs and helps to fulfil the basic social functions of a State. The elements introduced by Mr. Guterres to our debate in that context are indeed encouraging, in particular where economic growth is concerned.

Portugal has and will contribute consistently to those objectives as a leading donor within a large spectrum of areas, including governance and public administration, justice, education and security sector reform. We are also strongly committed to UNMIT; we have contributed 200 peacekeepers and fully support all areas under the responsibility of the Mission.

The continued presence of UNMIT is essential in order that the work in the consolidation of peace, democracy and development in Timor-Leste may be adequately sustained. May I also mention the most valuable work of the Special Representative of the Secretary General and, under his skilled direction, of all UNMIT staff. During the past three years, Mr. Atul Khare has done an outstanding job that will remain inseparable from all the accomplishments achieved by UNMIT. We wish to commend him for all his efforts and dedication.

Finally, allow me to offer the Timorese people and their democratic leaders our best wishes for success in meeting these important challenges, and to assure them of our constant solidarity.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for convening this debate and for the opportunity to participate in it. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to His Excellency Mr. José Luis Guterres, Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste. His comprehensive briefing demonstrates how active the Government has been in addressing the many challenges faced by the country, with many positive results.

I also thank Mr. Atul Khare, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, for his briefing today and commend him for his outstanding work. Let me take this opportunity to pay tribute to Mr. Khare for his leadership and engagement with Timor-Leste and its people. When he concludes his term at the end of this year, he will leave behind a legacy of an extraordinary contribution that is reflected in the many accomplishments of Timor-Leste in consolidating peace and making progress towards social and economic development. I wish him all the best in his future endeavours.

As Timor-Leste and its many friends celebrate the tenth anniversary of the popular consultation, it gives us great pleasure to see that the country is moving forward and slowly but steadily building and strengthening the institutions proper to a modern democratic State. The Timorese can be proud of what they have achieved so far and remain confident in their future.

Such a positive trend is evident in the most recent report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/504). It describes a significant improvement in the overall situation in the first nine months of 2009.

Of special relevance is the fact that the security situation remained calm and that the consequences of past instability are being addressed. The continued resumption of policing responsibilities by the National Police Force of Timor-Leste is particularly positive. We support the gradual and phased approach taken in this regard, based on criteria agreed mutually between the Timorese Government and the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). It is encouraging that, despite shortcomings, this process has not been accompanied by an increase in crime or disorder. Quite to the contrary, the average number of incidents reported each week has actually decreased.

The closure of all camps for internally displaced persons is a significant development from both the humanitarian and political perspectives. It signals progress. In order to firmly turn a sad page in the history of the country and avoid potential destabilization, attention should be given to aspects related to the return of internally displaced persons, in particular housing, land and property rights and income generation.

It is encouraging to note the continued engagement of the political parties in the democratic debate. The holding of peaceful local elections on 9 October, for which we commend the Government of Timor-Leste, is yet another step towards consolidating democracy. Democratic stability is key to ensuring prosperity, State-building and effective popular representation. We therefore congratulate political leaders and encourage them to continue to participate in the democratic process as the only way to successfully address the challenges facing the country.

Strong economic and social development is essential to consolidating these achievements. The progress made in meeting the targets of the international compact for Timor-Leste, the vigorous increase in non-oil gross domestic product in 2008, and the strong growth expected for 2009 and 2010 are excellent news. In the long term, consolidating the economy and reducing poverty will require significant investments in the productive non-oil sectors, as indicated by the Secretary-General.

It will also be necessary to increase and improve social investment. The measures taken by the Timorese Government to further improve basic education, health, nutrition and child protection and to stimulate rural development are commendable and should be supported. They are essential to the country's achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

Brazil has contributed to such endeavours through bilateral cooperation in areas as diverse as education, agriculture and culture, in addition to justice, security, democratic governance and defence. We intend to further strengthen our cooperation, which will continue to be focused on helping to build much-needed capacity.

Timor-Leste's progress in a number of areas is certainly due to the determination of its Government and people. It is also a result of the unwavering commitment of the international community. This is the time for all of us to maintain this commitment, given that progress and stability are still fragile, as

noted in the report. Recent security gains should not mislead us. UNMIT remains a vital actor on the ground and will remain so until such gains are firmly consolidated. Brazil is convinced that, with our collective support, the Timorese Government will keep working intensely and effectively to that end.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of New Zealand.

Mr. McLay (New Zealand): I join others in thanking Mr. José Luis Guterres, Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste, and Mr. Atul Khare, Special Representative of the Secretary General, for their presentations today, as well as the Secretary-General for his report (S/2009/504) on the situation in Timor-Leste. We particularly acknowledge Mr. Khare's role in overseeing the progress we are reviewing today, and we wish him well for the future.

For 10 years, New Zealand has been pleased to work with Timor-Leste, successive United Nations and international missions and other bilateral partners, and is proud of the role it has played in helping to build that new nation. We appreciate the comments by various Council members acknowledging that role. We are committed to continuing our assistance and fully support a continued mandate for the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT).

We have heard today of the considerable progress that has been made in Timor-Leste since we last met. The country is calm. Peaceful, free and fair village elections were very recently held, supported by the United Nations. Slowly but surely, Timor-Leste's institutions are growing in strength. There have been relatively few security incidents this year, and those that have occurred have been criminal in nature rather than resulting from any breakdown in stability.

The Australia/New Zealand International Stabilisation Force (ISF), is increasingly focusing on capacity-building and development assistance. At the same time, we recognize that the mere presence of that Force, like that of the United Nations police, provides a disincentive to those who might otherwise seek to foment unrest.

The National Police Force of Timor-Leste (PNTL) is taking back from the United Nations responsibility for practical policing, district by district. We will be watching with interest the resumption of policing in Viqueque next month.

New Zealand continues to assist the PNTL in its development through cooperation in community policing. Our pilot projects in Becora prison in Dili and in Suai in Covalima District are going well, and progress is being made in working with the PNTL and other United Nations police personnel to extend community policing approaches to other areas. We believe that community policing can significantly contribute to promoting a peaceful and harmonious society.

These are all positive developments. Together, they are helping to create exactly the sort of environment that the Government of Timor-Leste needs if it is to succeed in taking on longer-term challenges, including those identified by the Secretary-General. There are the challenges of building the institutions of statehood, developing effective and representative systems of governance and creating credible mechanisms for addressing justice and human rights issues. There are also the challenges of creating a strong economy and generating meaningful employment, particularly for the young. We need to support the Government in enabling the growth of a private sector, because only that sector can provide the many jobs needed in the future.

It is New Zealand's assessment that Timor-Leste is entering a transitional period. We cannot yet be fully sure that the current peace and calm equate to long-term stability. The unexpected eruption of violence in 2006 reminded us of the danger of making that calculation too early or too quickly. But it is equally clear that the country is no longer in a state of crisis. As the Timorese Government itself has put it, the situation is moving from conflict to development.

This means that, while the support of the international community is still required, the nature and direction of that support may have to evolve and change. It also means that we will increasingly need to call on contributions — multilateral as well as bilateral — from a wide range of international players with different areas of skill and expertise.

The United Nations has a central role to play in this changing environment. In our view, it must continue to assist Timor-Leste to strengthen its national institutions and work towards peaceful and credible elections in 2012. But to ensure that it remains effective, UNMIT must be allowed to evolve. It is vital

that the Mission remain responsive to the changing environment in which it operates.

In that respect, the upcoming visit to Timor-Leste of a United Nations technical assessment mission is timely, and we look forward to its recommendations regarding UNMIT's medium-term future. We do not wish to speculate as to the likely outcome of the mission, but we agree with the Secretary-General's report that any adjustments in UNMIT police numbers should be undertaken only in a gradual, step-by-step manner that helps to maintain confidence in the current stable security situation.

As one of the two partners in the International Stabilization Force (ISF), we also believe that any decisions made about UNMIT's future should continue to recognize the close interlinking of United Nations and ISF operations. The ISF is charged with providing security to UNMIT, and it is vital that planning for the future of those two core components of the international security presence continue to be closely coordinated.

New Zealand assures the Security Council of its continuing support for and encouragement to the leaders and the people of Timor-Leste and to Mr. Khare and his UNMIT team. We thank the Council for its ongoing support for Timor-Leste and Viet Nam for presiding over today's discussions.

Amid the chaos and violence of 10 years ago, it was hard to see the prospect of the new nation that is emerging today. The security, social, economic and governance challenges of the past decade have been faced and largely met. Timor-Leste can now take up with some confidence the further challenges of developing the institutions of statehood and national democratic, representative Government, of creating credible mechanisms for ensuring justice and the protection of human rights, and of building a strong and sustainable economy. In the spirit of cooperation of those 10 years, New Zealand shares and takes some quiet pride in all those developments and in having helped and supported the emergence of this new member of the international family of free and independent nations.

The President: I now call on the representative of Australia.

Mr. Quinlan (Australia): Australia welcomes the opportunity to participate once again in the Security Council's deliberations on Timor-Leste. We particularly welcome the participation of Deputy Prime Minister Guterres today. We congratulate Timor-Leste on its recent tenth anniversary of the United Nations-sponsored popular consultation, and we endorses the statement issued by the President of the Security Council on 27 August, which reaffirmed the Council's support for the efforts of the people and the Government of Timor-Leste and for the work of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) in fulfilling its mandate. The effective implementation of that mandate continues to be vital.

For Australia's part, we remain a steadfast friend of Timor-Leste and will continue to contribute what we can to international efforts to assist it in becoming a stable and prosperous nation. We welcome the positive developments in the security situation since the 11 February 2008 attacks on President Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Gusmão — developments recently demonstrated in the successful local Suko elections held on 9 October, which took place with only minor and isolated security incidents. Equally pleasing has been the closure of the last of the camps housing internally displaced persons. We congratulate the Government of Timor-Leste and others involved on that achievement.

However, we recognize that the closure of those camps is only the first step in the reintegration process. The return of significant numbers of people to communities with limited infrastructure and other support services presents new risks and challenges. Certainly Australia will continue to support efforts by the Timorese Government to ensure the long-term sustainability of the return and reintegration process.

The Australian-led International Security Force (ISF) has commenced a shift in focus from a purely security support role to one of defence cooperation with Timor-Leste's military to support the work of Australia's own bilateral Defence Cooperation Programme. We wish to acknowledge the significant cooperation of UNMIT and other international partners with the ISF. In particular, we wish to express our appreciation to New Zealand for its contribution.

In addition to the work of the Defence Cooperation Programme, Australia's bilateral Timor-Leste Police Development Programme is working closely with the Government and the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) to develop its capacity. While

good progress has been and continues to be made, the United Nations role on the ground in Timor-Leste in this area in particular remains significant and quite crucial. A major development this year has been the commencement of the handover of policing responsibility from the United Nations police to the PNTL. The process mutually agreed between the Government of Timor-Leste and UNMIT is for the handover to be done gradually, with each district and specialized unit required to meet a set of objective criteria. That has resulted, as we know, in three districts and one unit being handed back to the PNTL to date.

We very much support that joint approach, which not only ensures a controlled and orderly handover, but also provides valuable information to international partners as to the critical needs of the PNTL. We support the view expressed in the Secretary-General's report (S/2009/504) that continued monitoring by UNMIT will be critical in this respect and that Timor-Leste and UNMIT are at the beginning of a delicate process — as the report says — of handover on which we should not impose a predetermined artificial timeline.

The development of the justice sector has continued with the addition of more judges, public defenders and public prosecutors. District courts are now functioning and providing increased judicial services to the rural population. Australia continues to support the development of the justice sector, as do others. While progress overall in that sector has been positive, the clear principle of separation of powers must be kept in mind at all times to ensure a strong and independent judiciary.

Of course, the Government and the people of Timor-Leste will themselves continue to take primary responsibility for the development of a stable and prosperous nation, including through institutional and economic reform, the development of the private sector and the provision of infrastructure, health and education services and housing. The Secretary-General's report recognizes, however, that many of the underlying factors contributing to the 2006 crisis — poverty, lack of an effective land regime, weakness in the justice sector and still-nascent security institutions — remain.

In support of capacity-building to address those and other challenges, Australia is finalizing a new country strategy for development assistance to Timor-Leste for the next five years. It will reflect a tighter and more explicit focus around priorities that have been clearly identified by the Government of Timor-Leste itself. Our aid programme under the new strategy, which of course is conditional on Timor-Leste's approval, will likely focus on delivering services — particularly in child and maternal health — in rural areas; creating training and employment opportunities for young men and women, a crucial task; improving food security; and assisting with capacity-building within the institutions and the Government of Timor-Leste itself.

A positive development has been progress in institutional reform supported by donors. Those developments include the establishment of a public service commission and the adoption of legislation to establish an anti-corruption commission, both of which are significant landmarks.

As a significant donor to Timor-Leste and mindful of the broad and complex range of development cooperation taking place, we look forward to continuing to work in partnership with the Government of Timor-Leste and closely with other development partners, including the United Nations in all its forms, to ensure a carefully coordinated approach.

It is axiomatic that the international community, led by the United Nations, will continue to support Timor-Leste as it moves towards more effective and sustainable governance arrangements. For our part, we remain committed to continuing our own strong support for Timor-Leste during this important period of transition.

In concluding, I would like to commend the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Mr. Atul Khare, not just for his professional contribution — which we expect — but also for his impressive personal commitment to Timor-Leste. We have all been present at a point in history that has seen the emergence of this new nation, and Mr. Khare and his United Nations team have been a very significant part of that history.

The President: I now call on the representative of the Philippines.

Mr. Davide (Philippines): At the outset, the Philippines congratulates you, Mr. President, on Viet

Nam's successful leadership of the Council, an undoubted testament to its fidelity to the legacy of last year's successful presidency, and thanks you for convening this important meeting to discuss the situation in Timor-Leste.

My country welcomes back Deputy Prime Minister José Luis Guterres and thanks him for his important statement this morning. We also thank the Secretary-General's Special Representative, Mr. Atul Khare, for presenting the Secretary-General's report (S/2009/504) on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). Once again, the Special Representative has given us a front-row view, even an eyewitness account, of how the United Nations is conducting successful peacekeeping and peacebuilding operations in Timor-Leste. The Philippines also notes that Mr. Khare's tour of duty with UNMIT ends in December and acknowledges the exemplary work he has done in the past three years as head of UNMIT and in his previous capacities as Chief of Staff and Deputy Special Representative in earlier peacekeeping operations in Timor-Leste. The Philippines wishes him all the best in his future endeavours.

The Philippines also associates itself with the statement delivered by Thailand on behalf of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). We would, nonetheless, like to stress some points.

The Philippines' special relationship and solidarity with Timor-Leste date back to the latter's formative years. The Philippines started its involvement in 1999 with a 600-strong humanitarian support mission as part of the International Force in East Timor, and has deployed a significant number of personnel in every United Nations mission in Timor-Leste from that time until the present. The majority of its individual police officers are in UNMIT. The Philippines continues to be committed to Timor-Leste's nation-building efforts through, inter alia, bilateral arrangements for assistance and cooperation in capacity-building, working with various relevant groups and institutions in Timor-Leste, and remains a member of the Core Group on Timor-Leste.

As such, the Philippines is heartened to note that developments in all aspects of Timor-Leste's nationhood have been very positive and encouraging since the last Security Council meeting on the subject in February. Highlights in this area include the successful celebration of the tenth anniversary of the popular referendum in an atmosphere of continuing safety and stability, for which the people of Timor-Leste and its State institutions, with the support of UNMIT and the United Nations country team, should be commended. Another such example is the resumption on 14 May of primary policing responsibilities by the Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL). The international community, through the United Nations and bilateral donors, should provide long-term assistance to support the PNTL and the Timorese Government in reconstituting and developing the police force.

There has also been progress in efforts to enhance democratic governance by establishing anti-corruption and civil service commissions and by ratifying the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Significant progress has also been made in meeting targets for the national priorities set forth in the international compact for Timor-Leste (see S/2008/501, para. 36). Development partners should endeavour to reinforce the Government's commitment to the priorities in order to ensure that the high degree of compliance in meeting targets for the first and second quarters of this year will be sustained.

The Philippines acknowledges the comprehensive role that UNMIT and the United Nations country team have played and will continue to play in promoting peace and development in Timor-Leste. It is imperative that the international community continue to express its strong support for their work. A case in point is the resumption of primary policing responsibilities. UNMIT's presence is still necessary to ensure that the gradual takeover of policing responsibilities by the PNTL continues to go smoothly. The Philippines fully concurs with the observation in paragraph 58 of the Secretary-General's report that UNMIT's present strength and composition should be maintained.

The path to nationhood is never smooth. Looking back, we have seen Timor-Leste toiling through tragedies and triumphs, sufferings and joy. The Philippines congratulates the people and Government of Timor-Leste for their courage, determination and faith. Their spirit of hope is outstanding. Thus far, we can say with certainty that with the character and idealism of the Timorese people, the time, effort and resources that the international community has invested in Timor-Leste have been worth it.

The experience in Timor-Leste is still definitely one of the best examples of a successful international

enterprise engineered through the combined cooperative efforts of the United Nations, regional players and partners. The Timorese leadership has remained focused on being proactive in promoting democracy and the rule of law and on enhancing stability, security, development and progress in a way that is sustainable and consistent with the needs of the Timorese people. It is incumbent on us to be relentless and enduring in our support to them to help maintain this positive attitude. As the saying goes, "When the only tool you own is a hammer, every problem begins to resemble a nail."

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): Thank you very much, Mr. President, for organizing this meeting. We thank the Secretary-General for his latest report (S/2009/504) on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT), and we are also grateful to Mr. Atul Khare, the Secretary-General's Special Representative, for his briefing today. We also welcome the personal presence and participation here of Mr. Guterres, the Deputy Prime Minister of Timor-Leste.

South Africa is pleased with the progress made by Timor-Leste since the 2006 crisis. Both the people and the political leadership of Timor-Leste have risen to overcome those events, and have ultimately made many strides towards restoring normalcy and bringing sustainable peace and stability to their country. We particularly applaud the personal efforts and leadership of President Ramos-Horta. South Africa welcomes the positive developments in Timor-Leste as reflected in the current report of the Secretary-General, which include progress in security, dialogue and reconciliation, as well as in amicably resolving the issues of the petitioners and internally displaced persons. My delegation supports continued efforts to foster dialogue and national reconciliation at both the national and the local levels among various stakeholders in Timor-Leste.

We congratulate the Government and people of Timor-Leste on their celebration of the important milestone of the tenth anniversary of the popular referendum, as noted in paragraph 3 of the report. My delegation is also encouraged that most of the country's critical challenges, such as the issue of the petitioners and internally displaced persons, have been resolved in an amicable manner, and we welcome the efforts made by the Government of Timor-Leste to address the outstanding challenges.

South Africa underlines the continued importance of a holistic and comprehensive approach to the review and reform of the security sector in Timor-Leste under the full national ownership of the country. We encourage the Government of Timor-Leste to continue to intensify and enhance its efforts towards developing a national security policy. My delegation also reiterates its backing for the protection and promotion of democratic governance, human rights and justice in Timor-Leste. We support the increased efforts to strengthen the country's security and justice institutions. In this context, we note with appreciation the gradual resumption of primary policing responsibilities in some districts by the national police.

We believe that the significant strides made thus far in Timor-Leste now require that its people, in partnership with the international community, must focus on the economic development of the country. Peace must be anchored in development. We therefore support the measures taken by the Timorese Government to further improve basic education and health and to enhance rural development. The bilateral and multilateral partners should align their support and programmes with the Government's development strategies and priorities.

We continue to reiterate our view that the international community must make a long-term commitment to assist the Government of Timor-Leste to achieve sustainable peace and prosperity. It is also crucial that bilateral and multilateral partners continue to assist the country to develop and strengthen its institutions and further build capacities in various sectors, in line with the country's prosperities. For their part, the leadership of Timor-Leste should continue to seize the opportunity to work with all segments of society in building national unity, reconciliation, promotion of human rights, justice and peace.

I wish to conclude by paying tribute to Mr. Atul Khare for his excellent service in UNMIT and, above all, for his dedication to the people of Timor-Leste. We wish to commend the invaluable work of UNMIT under his leadership.

South Africa, working with other partners, is ready to join the international community to assist the people of Timor-Leste in their effort to consolidate the progress made so far. We are convinced that Timor-Leste can succeed only to the extent to which the

international community provides political support and much-needed resources for development.

The President: I shall now give the floor to Mr. Khare to make a further statement in response to comments from the floor.

Mr. Khare: I would like to begin by communicating my sincerest thanks to all the speakers for the very strong support expressed for the observations contained in the report of the Secretary-General, particularly that the present strength and composition of UNMIT should be maintained while awaiting the recommendations of the technical assessment mission, which will be valuable in the formulation of proposals for possible adjustments, to be contained in the Secretary-General's next report, in February 2010.

Several speakers also reiterated the Secretary-General's recommendation regarding the need for stronger civilian oversight of the F-FDTL and the PNTL and for differentiation of their roles and responsibilities. I wish to assure the Security Council that the authorities of Timor-Leste are cognizant of those requirements and that UNMIT — and indeed, the entire United Nations family — will continue to assist them in implementing those two recommendations.

I was also grateful for the strong support for the Secretary-General's observation regarding the need to strengthen the rule of law, promote greater accountability and fight impunity. Again, I am pleased to inform the Council that the authorities of Timor-Leste are committed in that regard, and so is the United Nations committed to supporting the efforts of Timor-Leste to achieve a greater degree of accountability and to strengthen the rule of law.

I was also delighted to note several indications of continued bilateral and multilateral support for Timor-Leste from all the Member States. I wish to assure the Council that the United Nations will continue to work with those bilateral and multilateral partners to ensure that under the leadership of the Government and authorities of Timor-Leste the people have the required resources for success in socio-economic development, security sector reform, strengthening the rule of law and promoting democratic governance.

Finally, allow me to say how touched I have been by the very kind words directed to my team and, indeed, to myself.

The President: There are no further speakers on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6206

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6206th meeting

Monday, 26 October 2009, 10 a.m.

New York

President:	Mr. Le Luong Minh	(Viet Nam)
Members:	Austria	Mr. Mayr-Harting
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Kafando
	China	Mr. Liu Zhenmin
	Costa Rica	Mr. Urbina
	Croatia	Mr. Vilović
	France	Mr. Araud
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Dabbashi
	Mexico	Mr. Heller
	Russian Federation	Mr. Churkin
	Turkey	Mr. Çorman
	Uganda	Mr. Rugunda
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Ms. Rice

Agenda

Peace and security in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations (S/2009/470)

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

09-57623 (E)

Please recycle

The meeting was called to order at 10.20 a.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Peace and security in Africa

Report of the Secretary-General on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations (S/2009/470)

The President: I should like to inform the Council that I have received letters from the representatives of Brazil, Nigeria, South Africa, Sweden and Tunisia, in which they request to be invited to participate in the consideration of the item on the Council's agenda. In conformity with the usual practice, I propose, with the consent of the Council, to invite those representatives to participate in the consideration of the item, without the right to vote, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Charter and rule 37 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure.

There being no objection, it is so decided.

At the invitation of the President, the representatives of the aforementioned countries took the seats reserved for them at the side of the Council Chamber.

The President: In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to His Excellency Mr. Romano Prodi.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Prodi to take a seat at the Council table.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Mr. Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Le Roy to take a seat at the Council table.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to Ms. Susana Malcorra, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support.

It is so decided.

I invite Ms. Malcorra to take a seat at the Council table.

In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, I shall take it that the Security Council agrees to extend an invitation under rule 39 of its provisional rules of procedure to the Acting Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations, His Excellency Mr. Tete Antonio.

It is so decided.

I invite Mr. Antonio to take a seat at the Council table.

The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Security Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

I wish to draw the attention of members of the Council to document S/2009/470, which contains the report of the Secretary-General on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations.

At this meeting, the Security Council will hear a briefing by Mr. Alain Le Roy. I now give the floor to Mr. Le Roy.

Mr. Le Roy (*spoke in French*): I have the honour of addressing the Security Council on behalf of the Secretary-General to outline the stages that will enable the strengthening of the capacities of the African Union (AU) to maintain peace and security and enhance relations between the United Nations and the African Union. The presence of Ms. Susana Malcorra, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, underscores the importance that the Secretariat gives to this issue and our will to work together on it.

The report presented today (S/2009/470) sets out the assessment made by the Secretary-General of the recommendations included in the report of the African Union-United Nations panel established under Security Council resolution 1809 (2008) to consider the

modalities for support to African Union peacekeeping operations. The Secretary-General's report builds on the recommendations made by the panel, under its Chairman Mr. Prodi, and underscores some points on which the Secretariat should take immediate steps to strengthen its cooperation with the African Union Commission. This will require, on the one hand, restructuring our presence in Addis Ababa and, on the other, of course, strengthening the institutional capacities of the African Union in the areas identified by the panel.

The report also considers the financing mechanisms of African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council and emphasizes the importance of sustainable, flexible and predictable funding. I believe that those three adjectives — sustainable, flexible and predictable — are very important with regard to the financing mechanisms.

Last year's debate on regional organizations enabled the Security Council to reaffirm the importance of the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, under Chapter VIII of the Charter. We share the belief that security is prerequisite to sustainable development. That is particularly true in Africa, where instability and conflicts continue to undermine the aspirations of peoples in many countries. The international community must work together in order to build the capacity of vulnerable nations to prevent and resolve conflicts through political solutions.

When a peacekeeping operation is necessary, we must ensure ongoing support to those who are carrying it out — usually the Blue Helmets — once their deployment is authorized. The emergence of new threats to peace and security makes the environment in which peacekeeping operations are deployed increasingly complex. That further underpins the need to deploy robust and credible peacekeeping missions.

In that context, the enhanced role of African Union peacekeeping operations and of African regional economic communities is a major and welcome development. Their troops have been able to deploy quickly with limited resources and when the situation on the ground has needed a robust intervention. The African Union has assumed its responsibilities in complex political environments, with the authorization of the Security Council, when it has had a comparative advantage over a United Nations peacekeeping operation or when more time was needed to establish a consensus within the international community on the preferred course of action.

The African Union has developed its peacekeeping capacity based on the commendable principle that the continent should have its own means to act to prevent conflicts and the resulting suffering. If the international community really wishes to help it to achieve that objective, it must more actively support the strengthening of African peacekeeping capacity. That entails in particular helping to train each African troop contributor, contributing financially to peacekeeping operations and demonstrating the political will necessary to resolve conflicts. We must set ourselves realistic goals and priorities and make every effort necessary to ensure that the men and women deployed in conflict areas are equipped with the means required to achieve those goals.

Over the past five years, considerable progress has been achieved. The United Nations has broadened and deepened its strategic and operational partnership with the African Union. The 10-year capacity building programme, which is designed to provide support to the African Union Peace and Security Architecture, has laid the groundwork for this partnership, especially in the areas of conflict prevention and post-conflict recovery. At the same time, our joint efforts in peacekeeping and mediation in Darfur and our support for the African Union's peacekeeping operation in Somalia are further reminders of the scope and shape of the various types of partnership that can be achieved in an effort to address the peace and security challenges on the African continent. Serious capacity and resource constraints have, however, hampered the partnership's ability to fully realize its potential.

(*spoke in English*)

The United Nations has worked closely with the African Union and its partners to determine the best way to ensure that capacity-building is targeted and effective. There is a broad consensus that, as a first priority in the effort to build conflict prevention and peacekeeping capacity, the African Union should finalize and recruit the core staff required for the Commission to support the African Peace and Security Architecture. At the same time, it is critical that the African Union define its own priority requirements and develop a comprehensive road map for long-term capacity-building that will build on its strategic

framework and provide the framework for donor support. This will help to ensure that capacity-building is demand driven and not imposed externally. This is extremely important to ensure African Union leadership and ownership of the process.

Limited capacity is not our only challenge. As has been noted by this Council and the General Assembly, there is a need to provide resources for peacekeeping in a sustainable and predictable manner without undermining the flexibility required to respond to a crisis quickly. Currently, African Union peacekeeping is entirely dependent on the same small pool of donors. There is little flexibility, sustainability or predictability in its stream of resources. The lack of certainty as to when donations will be made impacts the AU's ability to plan missions and pay troop-contributing countries. Reliance on unpredictable sources of funding means that there is no guarantee that essential capabilities will be available, which in turn may invalidate planning assumptions and put a mission at the risk of failure. If the international community requests the AU to bear the brunt of its initial response to a crisis, it has an obligation to support the AU in ensuring that that response is credible.

In this regard, the report of the Secretary-General examines the various financing mechanisms which have been used in the past to ensure effective financing of AU peacekeeping. It also proposes ways in which each mechanism could be improved in order to allow for resources to be more predictable, sustainable and flexible. Building on the experience of the United Nations support packages to the African Union missions in the Sudan and Somalia, which were financed by assessed contributions and the European Union Africa Peace Facility, the international community must work together to find creative solutions and ensure that the most effective mechanism is made available to the African Union when the Security Council authorizes it to undertake a peacekeeping operation.

Ultimately and as emphasized in the Secretary-General's report, it is the African Union's member States' responsibility to identify sustainable resources for the long term. To this end, we are very encouraged by the African Union Assembly's decision to increase the portion of funds — from 6 to 12 per cent — contributed to peace support operations from its regular budget.

At the same time, it is important to recall that peacekeeping is no replacement for a political solution and that peacekeeping operations are most effective when deployed in support of a peace agreement. Efforts continue, in parallel, to enhance and support preventive diplomacy, early warning and conflict resolution and mediation. Experience teaches us that peacekeeping operations should be embarked upon only after careful consideration of all available response options, and must be accompanied by a viable political strategy and a set of clear objectives.

In looking forward, the United Nations system is committed to working with the AU in implementing the proposals in this report, especially concerning ways in which to enhance the strategic relationship between the United Nations Secretariat and the AU Commission and to provide additional support to the AU in the area of peacekeeping.

We welcome the AU Peace and Security Council's 15 October statement on the Secretary-General's report and fully support the emphasis on the need for effective follow-up to implement the proposals made in the report. Of course, this is going to be a long-term process that will require continuous international engagement that is coordinated to ensure that support is prioritized appropriately. Building a resilient and responsive African Union is vital to the establishment of an effective and complementary system for global peacekeeping. I am confident that the Council's meeting today will contribute to that goal.

In closing, we would like once again to thank former Prime Minister of Italy Romano Prodi, who is with us here today, for his leadership of the AU-United Nations panel. Its efforts have been a significant step forward in a process which will advance our collective peace and security objectives. We would also like to thank the African Union Commission, including Chairperson Jean Ping and our dear friend Commissioner Ramtane Lamamra, for their continued commitment and contribution to enhancing peace and security in Africa.

The President: I thank Mr. Le Roy for his briefing.

I now give the floor to Mr. Tete Antonio, Acting Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations.

Mr. Antonio (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I extend to you, Sir, the appreciation of Chairperson Jean Ping, who has been unable to travel but is closely following the Security Council's work in support of the African Union. I congratulate you, Sir, on behalf of the African Union on your assumption of the presidency of the Council. I join the previous speaker in thanking you for having convened this open debate.

We also thank Under-Secretary-General Alain Le Roy for introducing the Secretary-General's report (S/2009/470) and for the support he has reaffirmed for the African Union. We are, moreover, honoured by the presence of Mr. Romano Prodi, whom we thank for his tireless dedication to the noble causes of Africa. We also thank all the members of the African Union-United Nations panel who have worked under Mr. Prodi's leadership to bring us together here to focus on the cause of Africa.

The role of such regional organizations as the African Union in the maintenance of international peace and security has been the subject of the heightened interest and in-depth consideration of the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council and Assembly of Heads of State and Government. At the same time, the Security Council's primary Charter responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security has been amply reaffirmed by the Council itself and other stakeholders.

Against that backdrop, funding for peacekeeping operations conducted by regional organizations remains a central concern of the African Union on the basis of its experience in various activities to promote peace and security on the continent. The pertinent issues addressed in the relevant documents of the United Nations and the African Union include the nature of the structure of the partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations; inter-institutional coordination and consultation mechanisms; the enhancement of resources to strengthen the capacities of the peacekeeping and peace-support operations of regional organizations; conflict prevention and mediation; support for peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction; human rights and humanitarian activities. Those are topics at the heart of the problems plaguing the African continent.

While pursuing our reflections on this matter, we have simultaneously experimented with practical and innovative approaches in order to respond to pressing needs on the ground. Here I must mention the initial and heavy support packages authorized by the Security Council for the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) as well as the ongoing support for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). Mention should also be made of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID), which is further evidence of the innovative approaches taken by the African Union and the United Nations to addressing the peace and security challenges on the African continent.

We believe that the combination of reflection and pragmatism has significantly enhanced our understanding of how great a need there is to establish predictable and sustainable funding mechanisms for peace support operations conducted by regional organizations such as the African Union, with the authorization of the Security Council, of course. In this respect, it is clear that the most viable option is to make use of United Nations assessed contributions. We are convinced that obtaining predictable, sustainable and flexible funding for regional organizations such as the African Union through assessed contributions would also enable the Security Council to utilize local comparative advantages in its efforts to tackle, in a continuous way, the threats to international peace and security that affect us all.

Over the past few years, the African Union, with the support of its international partners, has demonstrated a renewed will to shoulder its share of responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. The decision to deploy a mission in Somalia, in spite of the volatile security situation prevailing on the ground — with which we are all familiar — and the difficult environment overall, as well as earlier deployments in countries such as Burundi and the Sudan — and thus in Darfur — bear testimony to this determination. I should thus like to recall the decision taken by the special summit of the African Union held in Tripoli, Libya, at the end of August 2009, to increase the percentage of the AU regular budget transferred to the Union's Peace Fund.

Looking to the future, we believe that the Council should, in the next stages of its consideration of this matter, fully utilize the constructive and rich environment created by the combination of reflection, pragmatism and lessons learned, in order to take decisive measures to address the specific issue of the

predictability, sustainability and flexibility of funding for regional organizations when they undertake peacekeeping operations under a United Nations mandate, and to do so through assessed contributions.

We note the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General with respect to the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, which provide a good basis for strengthening the cooperation between the AU and the United Nations in the area of the maintenance of international peace and security. We also note the recommendations made with respect to capacity-building, and we stress the need for their speedy implementation, bearing in mind ongoing African Union efforts and the need to ensure very close coordination.

It must, however, be clear that, in order to address the challenges of peace and security in Africa — something in which we all have a stake — we need not only to enhance the capacity of the African Union, but also to find effective responses to the issue of financing peace support operations.

Lest we lose sight of our goal, we must bear in mind that Security Council action on the subject of this debate will strengthen the unflagging confidence that the Governments and populations facing the scourges of conflict and instability place in the Council and in its readiness to help them restore lasting peace and security. I therefore seize this opportunity to reaffirm the commitment of the African Union to continue working with the Council, Member States and all international partners in pursuing and achieving this common goal.

The President: I thank Mr. Antonio for his statement.

I now give the floor to His Excellency Mr. Romano Prodi.

Mr. Prodi: I am very grateful to be here and grateful that I have been asked to say a few words even if that had not been planned; I take this as a great sign of respect and gratitude for the work that the African Union-United Nations panel on modalities for support to African Union operations has done. At the outset, I should like to thank all the members of the panel for their efforts and the results that they achieved. I am deeply grateful for the quality of the individual contributions that all members of the panel made and for the intense work of the United Nations staff.

Mr. Le Roy has already presented the main results to the Council, and I do not want to repeat them. I should like simply to speak of one simple concept. Peacekeeping is only one of the great African issues, which include development, health and infrastructure.

Our panel found, and it is also my deep conviction, that we cannot continue dealing with Africa in a bilateral way. Looking at the economic aspects, at the peacekeeping aspects and at all the problems of education and health, we simply cannot go on with this country-by-country approach based on individual relationships between wealthy countries and African countries. If we examine the economic aspects, we cannot find any prospects for development unless we approach African countries in their wider context, as a regional and continental union. Inter-African trade is negligible. Inter-African infrastructure is absolutely insufficient. There is an absolute necessity to improve inter-African cooperation for peacekeeping in the continent.

I invite all the members of the Security Council, which bears such great responsibility for the future of the world, to consider African peacekeeping in this wider context of relations between other continents and Africa. Clearly, this process related strictly to peacekeeping will require long-term capacity-building, on the basis of ownership and full responsibility by the African Union. In this process, a multilateral approach must be at the top of our priorities in dealing with Africa. That is the point of departure, and it is the conclusion of our panel.

I ask, in particular, the countries that have the highest level of responsibility in the world economy, in development and in peacekeeping to analyse the necessity of helping with any major engagement of the African Union and other regional structures, in order to make African development feasible. That is the direction we need to go in. The proposals presented by the panel move towards developing the capacities of the African Union and allowing it to have responsibility for future peace in Africa.

To be sure, the objections I hear are logical and understandable. Some say that the existing organization, the African Union, is not strong enough to tackle the problems addressed in the report. I

completely agree, but the task before us is to give the African Union the ability to build its strength in the medium and long term. No one thought while writing the report that everything was ready today for full and efficient deployment of peacekeeping efforts. However, if we do not start now, we will never reach our goal.

(*spoke in French*)

That is the conclusion reached by our panel. I repeat that the Council will consider all the technical aspects and technical proposals, but the report must be seen in the context of a comprehensive African development plan aiming to provide Africa with all the means it needs for all countries to act collectively and in solidarity to promote development on the continent.

(*spoke in English*)

Those are our conclusions. That is our contribution to the discussion today. I repeat: let us now start this long-term effort and work closely with the entire United Nations system in order to coordinate the efforts of all countries in Africa so that Africa can act as a united continent within which cooperation among all countries is indispensable to a better future.

The President: I thank Mr. Prodi for his statement.

I shall now give the floor to members of the Council who wish to make statements.

Mr. Çorman (Turkey): Allow me to begin by commending you, Mr. President, for organizing this meeting on United Nations support to African Union peacekeeping operations. This issue has been on our agenda for some time now, and today's meeting provides us with a very timely opportunity to review the steps taken so far and to chart the course of our future work.

In that regard, I would like to pay a special tribute to the Secretary-General for his leadership on this issue and for his dedicated efforts to further strengthen the partnership between the United Nations and the African Union (AU). His most recent report (S/2009/470), in particular, contains valuable assessments and proposals for the way forward on this issue.

I thank Under-Secretary-General Alain Le Roy for his briefing and for focusing our debate on the right issues, and Under-Secretary-General Susana Malcorra for her presence in the Council Chamber today.

I would also like to thank His Excellency Mr. Romano Prodi for his briefing today, but even more for his most valuable contributions to the considerations of this issue. Indeed, it was his leadership of the United Nations-African Union panel last year and the ideas put forth in its report (see S/2008/813) that paved the way for United Nations action on this important matter.

Last but not least I would like to express our thanks to Mr. Tete Antonio, Acting Permanent Observer of the African Union, for his participation in today's meeting and for the very comprehensive briefing he has just given us. What we are discussing today is indeed a partnership of vital importance for both organizations, and we are pleased to see the African Union approaching that issue with the professionalism and commitment it deserves.

Over the past year or so, a lively debate has been going on in several forums, with the participation of all interested parties, on issues related to the United Nations peacekeeping system. Indeed, we have been putting our heads together with a view to finding the right ways and means to streamline the United Nations peacekeeping mechanism, which still stands as an indispensable tool for the maintenance of international peace and security.

One common point that emerged from all those debates was the strong emphasis placed on the necessity of an enhanced strategic dialogue among all stakeholders, in particular between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations. It has been stressed over and over again that the increasing demand for peacekeeping around the globe can be met only by forging new and strategic partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations.

That was also one of the main tenants of the recent "New Horizon" paper prepared by the Secretariat. In fact, it is a long-standing commitment we have collectively undertaken under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and in paragraph 170 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document (General Assembly resolution 60/1), as well as in various other Security Council resolutions and statements. After all, there is no doubt that the role played by regional organizations in peace and security is indispensable and is complementary to the work of the United Nations, in particular that of the Security Council.

In this regard, the African Union is a particularly important regional actor whose contribution to the settlement of conflicts on the African continent is of key significance in the overall efforts to maintain international peace and security. Indeed, given the time and energy we spend in the Council to help resolve the various conflicts in Africa, it is clear that the African Union provides most needed added value in areas of critical importance.

It is for this reason that since the adoption of resolution 1809 (2008), in particular, the Council has been working very hard to develop a more effective partnership with the African Union, a partnership which mutually strengthens the capabilities of each organization and which creates a synergy of efforts towards peace and stability. Our point of departure has been, and still is, that the more efficient and valuable the African Union becomes in its peacekeeping operations, the stronger the United Nations and the entire international community become in their ability to maintain peace and security.

Within this framework, the joint African Union-United Nations panel has put forward many useful recommendations which were first addressed in the presidential statement adopted in March of this year under Libya's presidency (S/PRST/2009/3). There we not only took note of those new ideas, but also called for further joint efforts in this direction, focusing on issues of mutual interest. We also called on the Secretariat to develop, in coordination with the AU Commission, a list of recommendations on ways to help the African Union further develop its military, technical, logistic, administrative and financial capabilities.

That is precisely what the Secretary-General's report does. It further elaborates on those recommendations and proposes practical ways in which the United Nations can assist the African Union to enhance its effectiveness in the deployment and management of peacekeeping operations.

As we see it, there are three main areas in which we can, and should, make further progress in order to realize the objectives we have collectively set out for ourselves. Those are: developing a strategic partnership between the two organizations at both the political and operational levels, supporting the institutional capacity-building of the African Union, and enhancing the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for African Union-led peacekeeping operations under a United Nations mandate. To put it simply, we support the recommendations of the Secretary-General in all three areas. We believe that the time has come to translate them into practice. Indeed, we have spoken long enough. Now is the time for action.

In that regard, we particularly share the Secretary-General's views concerning the need for the establishment of a predictable, sustainable and flexible funding system for AU-led peace support operations, as well as for developing a broad road map for capacity-building with a set of short- to long-term initiatives. Likewise, we very much welcome the idea of establishing a joint task force between the United Nations and the African Union to review immediate and long-term strategic and operational issues, as well as to conduct a lessons learned exercise on the basis of our joint endeavours in Somalia and Darfur.

As I mentioned at the beginning of my remarks, today's meeting provides us a valuable opportunity to underscore our commitment to forge a strategic partnership with the African Union and to chart the course of our future work. Our deliberations today therefore have even more practical importance in the light of the statement issued on 15 October by the African Union Peace and Security Council, which also called for an increased strategic partnership on peacekeeping issues between the United Nations and the African Union. The draft presidential statement to be adopted at the end of today's meeting will therefore be the response of the Security Council to that call, as well as a testament of the Council's intention with regard to furthering our strategic cooperation.

In our opinion, the comparative strengths of both organizations and the complementary nature of their objectives leave no doubt about the value of an increased strategic relationship between the two bodies. That is why we fully support the draft presidential statement before us, which clearly underscores that point. We would like especially to thank the Mission of Uganda for its leadership, acting on behalf of the African Union, in the preparation of that text.

Investing in Africa's peacekeeping capacity means investing in the security, stability and future of that great continent, as well as of the entire world. It is a sound investment that will surely pay off as the

African continent fully develops its own capabilities and realizes its potential. We have already come a long way in that direction. Now is the time to further increase momentum and redouble our efforts towards our shared objectives.

Turkey is ready and willing to do its fair share in that regard. The rapidly developing relations between Turkey and African countries, as evidenced by the African Union's declaration of Turkey as one its three strategic partners, provides us ample ground on which to build. We are committed to doing so.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We are grateful to Mr. Le Roy for his introduction of the report of the Secretary-General on support to African Union peacekeeping operations (S/2009/470). We are also pleased to once again welcome Mr. Prodi to the Security Council.

Today's meeting illustrates anew the particular attention that the Security Council devotes to Africa, including when it comes to resolving tensions on the continent.

There is a need to acknowledge that the African Union (AU) and subregional African organizations have in recent years become increasingly active in resolving the problems of the continent. We welcome and support the resolve of the African Union and its member States to bear primary responsibility for the prevention of conflicts and the conduct of peacekeeping activities in Africa.

African peacekeepers play an essential role in the operations in Somalia and Darfur. There is no doubt that the African Union's peacekeeping capacities and resources need to be strengthened, including through the support of countries of the international community. That is the goal of United Nations cooperation with the African Union. In that regard, we must first and foremost focus on strengthening links between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council, as well as between the Secretariat and the African Union Commission.

In addition to peacekeeping efforts, there is also a need to devote the necessary attention to the building of the AU's capacity in the areas of mediation, preventive diplomacy and peacebuilding.

We welcome the Secretary-General's focus on further developing cooperation between the Secretariat and the AU Commission, including through the establishment of a joint task force on peace and security, the reorganization of the Secretariat's current presence at African Union headquarters in Addis Ababa and the initiatives set out in the report on strengthening the AU's institutional capacities.

We have taken particular note of the Secretary-General's analysis of existing avenues for providing United Nations logistical and financial support for AU peacekeeping operations. There is little accumulated experience to date in that regard. There was only one instance of efforts to implement a support package, and that was irregular in nature. Making such efforts part of a more regular process would be premature at this point. That is particularly so given the fact that the Secretary-General has correctly pointed out that United Nations support financed through the Organization's regular budget does not always ensure sustainability or predictability for the deployment of AU peacekeeping operations.

We also share the Secretary-General's conclusions with regard to the fact that the responsibility for allocating sufficient resources for African Union peacekeeping operations falls first and foremost on the member States of that regional organization. We welcome the African Union's decision to increase its contributions to its Peace Fund. We believe that the idea of setting up a flexible trust fund under the AU Peace Fund merits further attention. We also think that the role of the United Nations in relation to such a fund should be to provide expert advice.

The establishment by the African Union of a multilevel collective security structure to prevent crises and respond to them in a timely manner continues to be a priority. An important component of that architecture must be an international peacekeeping entity, namely, the African Standby Force, in whose establishment the international community is actively participating. There is also a need to continue to make active efforts to strengthen the institutional and legal foundations of the Force.

The Russian Federation is participating in the development and implementation of international assistance programmes for Africa, including in the area of strengthening the peacekeeping capacities of the African Union. Russian specialized educational institutions include training programmes for participants in African peacekeeping operations.

Russian peacekeepers are active in almost all United Nations peacekeeping operations on the continent. A Russian helicopter unit is deployed as part of the United Nations Mission in the Sudan, and another helicopter unit has begun its activities as part of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad. We intend to continue to develop our multifaceted cooperation with African countries with a view to strengthening peace and stability in that region.

We support the draft presidential statement that has been circulated among members of the Council.

Mr. Araud (France) (*spoke in French*): I would of course like to thank Mr. Le Roy for his introduction to the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/470). I should also like to welcome the presence among us of President Prodi.

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statement to be delivered shortly on behalf of the presidency of the European Union. For my part, I would like to highlight the following points.

First of all, everyone is aware of, and shares, the considerations upon which our discussion today is based. The increase in peacekeeping operations in recent years poses a significant challenge. The United Nations has had to act continuously, putting eight times as many Blue Helmets on the ground as it had a decade ago. In order to better enable the Organization to overcome those challenges, early this year France and the United Kingdom began an exercise in thinking about and modernizing United Nations peacekeeping.

Africa has a unique place in this process. On the one hand, it is the number-one recipient of peacekeepers. On the other, it is taking on increasing responsibilities in these peacekeeping efforts. These African efforts are being undertaken under the aegis of the United Nations, as one third of Blue Helmets are currently provided by African countries. This African effort is also taking place through the work of the African Union, including the gradual implementation of the African Peace and Security Architecture.

This stepping up of African endeavours in the field of crisis prevention and management is in line with the spirit of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter and thus merits the full support of the international community. It merits this support all the more because the African Union faces peacekeeping challenges that are unique to Africa and that relate to the fact that its institutional capacity is so recently acquired.

France, like its European Union partners, will assume its full role in supporting peacekeeping by African regional and subregional organizations. This support must have two facets, namely capacity-building and support for operations.

The European Union has developed a plan of action for African Union capacity-building. The Renforcement des capacités africaines de maintien de la paix (RECAMP) programme, in particular, is aimed at helping the African Union to put the African Standby Force in place in 2010. France also contributes to capacity-building in Africa through numerous training activities that are aimed at building regional, subregional and national peacekeeping capacities.

France and its partners in the European Union also support the operations undertaken by African organizations. This support is well known, but what I wish to underscore today is that it is taking increasingly varied forms. In the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), for example, we see a very clear case of this. France has contributed to the preparation and deployment of the Burundi contingent; the European Union naval operation, Operation Atalanta, is helping to secure AMISOM's provisioning routes; European countries are among the primary financial supporters of AMISOM; and France provided health care support to the Mission during the mid-September attacks.

As the Secretary-General's report shows, international support for peacekeeping in Africa should be maintained and stepped up. The United Nations has a role to play in this. France agrees with the Secretary-General's opinion that our objective should be African Union ownership of its peacekeeping instruments, with full respect for the United Nations Charter. In this respect I would highlight in particular Article 24 of the Charter on the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, and Chapter VIII on the role of regional organizations.

Along these lines, we agree with the importance of strengthening the strategic partnership between the African Union and the United Nations. In this respect, we thank the Secretary-General for his evaluation of the various possible modalities for the financing of

African Union peacekeeping operations. Indeed, as we build African capacities, we must improve the ways to finance these operations.

In this context, we must draw lessons from the support modules established previously in Darfur and more recently in Somalia. These are exceptional cases both for financial reasons — namely, the current crisis and substantial increase in United Nations needs — and for reasons having to do with governance. Every organization, first and foremost the United Nations, has the primary responsibility for financing its activities.

This is why the United Nations practice of financing from assessed contributions leads to political, legal and financial problems which we believe to be serious. There are other modalities that are effective and realistic. They must be used. The European Union played a pioneering role in this respect by establishing in 2004 the African Peace Facility and allocating €740 million to it since then. We also welcome the Secretary-General's thoughts on ways to galvanize potential donors for the African Union and harmonizing their procedures, in particular by helping the African Union establish a trust fund.

Finally, we recognize the importance of enabling the African Union to benefit from United Nations institutional experience, that is to say as regards the capacity of the African Union headquarters to plan, deploy, support and manage peacekeeping operations. We must of course not forget the responsibility of the African States themselves when it comes to strengthening their capacity as troop-contributing countries.

Allow me to therefore conclude by underscoring that building African peacekeeping capacity is a matter not solely for the United Nations, but also for Africa and all of Africa's international partners. France is among them and will remain committed to this objective.

Mr. Liu Zhenmin (China) (*spoke in Chinese*): The Chinese delegation thanks you, Mr. President, for convening today's debate. I would like to welcome the report submitted by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon entitled "Support to African peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations" (S/2009/470). I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Le Roy, Mr. Antonio and Mr. Prodi for their briefings.

At present, peace and stability on the African continent are gradually improving. But regional conflicts still constrain faster progress in Africa. Maintaining peace and stability in Africa remains a real and pressing challenge facing the international community. Without peace and stability in Africa, there will be no sustainable development there. Without peace and stability in Africa, there will be no lasting peace and prosperity in the world.

Comprehensive peace in Africa cannot be promoted without joint efforts by the international community. In recent years, the United Nations has been increasing its attention to and contribution to settling issues of peace and security in Africa. Sixty per cent of the items on the Council's agenda are related to Africa, and nearly half of the Council-authorized United Nations peacekeeping operations are in Africa.

We welcome the fact that in recent years, the African Union has displayed a high sense of its political responsibilities regarding regional peace and stability and has actively engaged in good offices and peacekeeping operations in dealing with hotspots and difficult issues in Africa. The African Union has been playing an increasingly important role in maintaining peace and stability in Africa and settling disputes there. It has also served as a bridge and linkage for more effective United Nations interventions in addressing African hotspot issues. However, issues related to African Union peacekeeping operations, bottlenecks in fundraising and capacity-building are becoming more prominent; here, the African Union needs the support and help of all international actors, including the United Nations.

We support the establishment of a strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union aimed at maintaining peace and stability in Africa, and we support the provision of practical help by the United Nations to African Union peacekeeping operations. United Nations assistance has played an important role in enabling the African Union to better respond to problems such as those in the Darfur area of the Sudan and in Somalia.

That is a concrete display of the Council's role in maintaining international peace and security. In the future, the Council should strengthen its communication with the African Union Peace and Security Council and assist the latter in increasing its

collective capacity to respond to the challenges in Africa. The United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission should also step up their cooperation. As for the recommendation proposed in the Secretary-General's report for the establishment of a joint United Nations-African Union team, we consider it to be generally feasible. How such a team is to be implemented will require further consultation between both sides.

We maintain that the United Nations should assist African Union peacekeeping operations in finding more reliable sources of funding. United Nations-authorized African Union operations currently suffer from financial shortfalls, as a result of which mandated levels of troops for deployment have not been reached even after long delays, funding has fallen far below projected targets, and troop-contributing countries' forces have encountered difficulties in performing their duties.

Due to various constraints, a predictable, sustainable and flexible financing mechanism has yet to be established. This is most regrettable. We believe that all parties should study the five financing mechanisms mentioned in the Secretary-General's report, define fair, balanced and effective mechanisms as early as possible, and ensure their full use by all parties, including United Nations support.

We also support stepping up the institutional capacity-building of peacekeeping operations. In addition to the shortage of funds, inadequate institutional capacities in management and strategic planning pose another major challenge to African Union peacekeeping operations. We call for capacity-building to be made a priority in United Nations-African Union cooperation. Through personnel training, information-sharing and the exchange of experience, the United Nations should also step up cooperation with the African Union and accelerate implementation of the Union's 10-year capacity-building programme. We support the United Nations in helping the African Union to address, via the short-, medium- and long-term measures discussed in the report, such problems as logistics and human resources. The African Union, meanwhile, should also work out a long-term, comprehensive capacity-building plan.

At present, the new strategic partnership between China and Africa is developing in a sustained, steady and rapid manner. China has consistently advocated and supported a greater role for the African Union in maintaining peace and stability on the continent. In recent years, through bilateral and multilateral channels, we have provided various forms of assistance to a number of peacekeeping operations in Africa. The fourth Ministerial Conference of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation is scheduled to be held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in early November. We believe that the meeting will further enhance pragmatic cooperation between China and Africa in all areas. In future, China will continue to help the African Union and countries of Africa to the best of its ability and to support the United Nations and the African Union in strengthening their comprehensive cooperation.

Finally, I thank Uganda and other African countries for drafting the presidential statement under the agenda item under discussion today. China supports the Security Council's adoption of the draft statement to demonstrate to the international community the Council's political will in support of United Nations-authorized African Union peacekeeping operations.

Mr. Kafando (Burkina Faso) (*spoke in French*): I would like to thank the Council for organizing this debate to consider the Secretary-General's report (S/2009/470) assessing the recommendations of the African Union-United Nations panel on the modalities for support to peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations and led by regional organizations, in particular the African Union. I would also like to thank Under-Secretary-General Alain Le Roy, Mr. Tete Antonio, Acting Permanent Observer of the United Nations, and Mr. Romano Prodi for their important statements.

Following the Security Council's consultations regarding the report submitted by the African Union-United Nations panel in December 2008 (S/2008/813), we awaited the Secretary-General's report with a great deal of interest. It would thus be remiss of us not to convey our wholehearted thanks to him for his report.

We also wish to reiterate our appreciation for the panel's timely recommendations, which make significant contribution to collective efforts to strengthen the African Union's capacity to meet the challenges facing the African continent and to mobilize greater support on the part of the international community, especially with the aim of improving the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing

for African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations.

That is all the more important because, despite their repeatedly demonstrated goodwill, subregional and regional organizations, especially the African Union, encounter objective difficulties in supporting increasingly expensive long-term peacekeeping operations or increasingly complex crisis situations. The most egregious and pressing such case is that of Somalia, where, as a result of insufficient financial assistance in support of the African Union's commitment, the conflict is only deteriorating. The diagnosis is therefore clear: a lack of modalities for guaranteed, flexible financing and limited institutional capacities. We now need to find the best way to address these difficulties, which are certainly not insurmountable.

Since the report addresses United Nations-authorized missions, we feel that the optimal solution is to be found in establishing cooperation, or better yet, an open partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, based on Chapter VIII of the Charter. The complexity of conflicts and threats to peace demand a collective response based on genuine political will on the part of the Organization, and in particular the Security Council, to support the African Union's efforts.

Frankly, after all the statements of faith that have been made and commitments undertaken within this very body, which is fond of recalling its principal responsibility as a bulwark of international peace and security, the time has come to act. In the wake of the Secretary-General's assessment, my delegation would therefore like to underscore the importance of the following tasks.

First is the need to strengthen strategic relations and to develop a common strategic vision for the United Nations and the African Union through reliable arrangements between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council, as well as between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission, in order to improve their coordination and effectiveness in the prevention and management of conflict and on issues of common interest.

The partnership between the two organizations must be maintained and reinforced in order to strengthen the African Union's human resources. In this regard, we support establishing a special joint United Nations-African Union team for peace and security whose mission is to review current and long-term strategic and operational issues.

With respect to making financing for peacekeeping more predictable, sustainable and flexible, we need to establish appropriate financing mechanisms for United Nations-authorized African Union peacekeeping operations, with the ultimate aim of creating a standing African Union peacekeeping capacity and of providing African Union missions with operational resources.

The African Union must pursue its internal efforts to set up its own logistical capacities. We must seek ways and means to strengthen the African Union's institutional and operational capacities in peacekeeping, and to give it all the support necessary to establish the African Peace and Security Architecture and to build a standing emergency response force.

While we recognize the importance of peacekeeping activities, special attention should also be paid to prevention and mediation efforts and to exploit the comparative advantages of regional and subregional organizations in this respect. We encourage the United Nations to maintain its support for the African Union's 10-year capacity-building programme, and we welcome the capacity-building activities undertaken by many United Nations departments with the African Union with respect to elections, mediation, conflict settlement, and peacekeeping planning and implementation. These efforts will have to continue, and we await with interest the assessment to be made later this year of the 10-year programme. We must also focus our attention on close cooperation between all international partners assisting the African Union's institutional and logistical capacity-building.

Turning specifically to the issue of financing, the Security Council, through its resolution 1809 (2008), itself recognizes that the absence of predictable, sustainable and flexible resources constrains the African Union's capacity for action. Although it is true that voluntary contributions have facilitated the deployment and implementation of peacekeeping operations by the African Union, as many here have recalled, the lessons to be learned from the United Nations Mission in the Sudan or the African Union Mission in Somalia have highlighted the deficiency of such contributions in covering all the needs of a large-

scale peacekeeping operation. With that assessment in mind, and given the difficulties facing the African Union in assuming the financial and logistic responsibilities for peacekeeping operations on the continent, we reiterate our support for the recommendations of the African Union-United Nations panel and for the Secretary-General's assessment regarding the re-allocation of United Nations-assessed contributions to back African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations.

It will be recall that the African Union decided in August to devote 12 per cent of its regular budget to financing the African Union Peace Fund. That decision, which we commend, reflected the continent's desire and political commitment to find solutions to the thorny issue of taking responsibility for peacekeeping operations. Despite that very important decision, it is quite clear that there remains a need for partners and donors to support the efforts of the African Union.

Regional organizations, especially the African Union, and indeed the Security Council cannot shirk their responsibility in the maintenance of peace under the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. Faced with the increased complexity of conflicts and peacekeeping mandates and with mounting requests for assistance, they must pool their efforts and define and strengthen the framework of their partnership and their action.

We reiterate our gratitude to the Chairman of the high-level panel, Mr. Romano Prodi, as well as the members of his team for their very valuable contribution. We hail the constructive assessment of the Secretary-General regarding their recommendations.

In conclusion, we wish to convey our gratitude to the Ugandan delegation for its efforts to promote the adoption of a draft presidential statement at the end of this meeting. Of course, we support the draft.

Mr. Parham (United Kingdom): I thank Under-Secretary-General Le Roy for his presentation and welcome the fact that Under-Secretary-General Malcorra is also here with us for this debate. We are also grateful for the presentation by Mr. Antonio on behalf of the African Union and to Mr. Prodi for his contribution and for the work of the United Nations-African Union panel under his leadership.

The issue of United Nations support to African Union (AU) peacekeeping under a United Nations mandate is important. The United Kingdom welcomes the opportunity to debate it here in the Council.

Peacekeeping plays a vital role in the maintenance of international peace and security. In recent years, we have seen an increase in both the scale and complexity of the challenges. The United Kingdom supports the efforts under way to develop a more effective and strategic approach to peacekeeping. Given the range of challenges faced not only in peacekeeping but also in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and mediation, the role of regional and subregional organizations is becoming increasingly important. We therefore welcome the enhanced relationship between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations, in particular the African Union, as outlined in resolution 1809 (2008).

Since the adoption of that resolution some 18 months ago, there has been much consideration of the different ways the relationship can be enhanced. We have also seen concrete examples of practical support from the United Nations to the African Union, notably on the African Union Mission in Somalia. The report of the panel chaired by Mr. Prodi (S/2008/813), which the Council debated in March, was an important contribution to the debate.

The Secretary-General's report (S/2009/470) is the latest step in this work. It provides a number of useful ideas for how the two organizations can continue to develop their strategic and operational relationship. As the Secretary-General observes in his report, building sufficient institutional capacity in key management, support and strategic planning functions represents a major challenge for the African Union. We welcome his suggestions to help build African Union capacity, and in particular his proposal for a capacity-building road map. That should form part of the wider African Union strategic plan for 2009-2012 in order to underpin African ownership and responsibility and ensure synergy with the African Union's overall development.

Building African Union management capacity, including resource management, is essential not only to managing immediate and future peacekeeping demands, but also to enabling a more effective partnership between the African Union and donors. We also need to see harmonized reporting requirements for donors.

The United Kingdom supports the development of African Union peacekeeping capability both bilaterally and through international partners, which includes support for the Africa Standby Force, regional training centres and African Union political offices. As Ambassador Araud has already told us, the European Union, as the main financial partner of the African Union, is providing substantial additional support — €300 million of funding for African Union capacity-building through the Africa Peace Facility, of which the United Kingdom contributes over €45 million. We recognize the need to work towards enhancing the longer-term predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for AU-led operations under a United Nations mandate.

The Secretary-General highlights a range of potential options in his report. We would not rule out any of these options at this stage. A proposal for establishing a standing flexible trust fund within the framework of the existing African Union Peace Fund has the potential to provide rapid funding for AU operations as well as for longer-term needs.

We welcome the Secretary-General's intention to establish a joint task force on peace and security, which will review immediate and long-term strategic and operational issues. We also welcome the other proposals to develop the interaction between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission. We look forward to further Council discussion of these issues.

We remain committed to continuing to assist the development of the African Union's capacity to deliver peace and security in Africa.

Mr. Dabbashi (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like at the outset to welcome Mr. Romano Prodi and to thank him for his presence with us today. We wish also to thank him and his panel for their laudable efforts in preparing the report (A/2008/813) and drafting its recommendations. These efforts have enabled us to meet on several occasions, including today. We also wish to thank Under-Secretary-General Le Roy for presenting the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/470) before us and for the efforts he and his colleagues in the Secretariat have undertaken to prepare the report and the assessment contained therein.

More than two years ago, the Security Council began to take a serious look at ways in which the United Nations and the African Union (AU) can find a predictable, guaranteed and sustainable source of funding for AU peacekeeping operations. The United Nations and the AU formed a joint panel, led by Mr. Romano Prodi, former Prime Minister of Italy, to study the issue. On 31 December 2008, following a in-depth and detailed study, the panel issued its report (see S/2008/813), which recommended a number of practical steps aimed at converting the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) into a United Nations peacekeeping operation through the use of the United Nations regular budget for six months.

In a presidential statement dated 18 March 2009 (S/PRST/2009/3), the Security Council, under the Libyan presidency, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on practical ways to provide effective support for the African Union and to include in it a detailed assessment of the recommendations contained in the report of the African Union-United Nations panel. The African Union Peace and Security Council, in its communiqué dated 13 March 2009, stated that the panel's report was an important step in the efforts to enhance the AU's capacity to address the challenges facing the African continent in the area of peace and security. It also emphasized the need for continued efforts to find predictable, sustainable and flexible funding for AU peacekeeping operations. In the report before us (S/2009/470), the Secretary-General states that the AU Commission repeatedly emphasized that need during its consultations with the Secretariat.

Clearly, there is an ongoing effort to support the African Union in building its own capacities. While we appreciate that acknowledged effort, it requires continuous assessment. The main problem — securing sustained, predictable and flexible funding for African peacekeeping — continues to completely elude us. It cannot be solved through voluntary contributions unless States with the capacity to do so commit themselves to making specific contributions to the AU Peace Fund for several years. However, because we doubt that that will happen, we remain convinced that funding from the United Nations regular budget is the best option, at least with regard to AMISOM. We believe that making it a United Nations mission as soon as possible is crucial to the restoration of peace and stability in Somalia and throughout the Horn of Africa region.

While some here might say that the Libyan delegation is being radical in its demands, reality

shows otherwise. Our emphasis on the requests and needs of Africa is based on the following.

First, accelerating the restoration of peace and security in Somalia is essential to restoring stability in the Horn of Africa and to enhancing the credibility of and strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union.

Secondly, the United Nations spends huge amounts of money on peacekeeping operations in areas in which there are fewer threats to international peace and security and to the lives of civilians than in Somalia. Somalia must not be treated differently.

Thirdly, a number of States that object to the use of the United Nations regular budget in Somalia spend hundreds of millions of dollars every year on their maritime presences off Somalia's coast. Had those resources been allocated to funding and developing AMISOM so that it could meet United Nations standards and reach its authorized strength, the Government of Somalia could have extended its authority throughout the country and the phenomenon of piracy off the Somali coast, which necessitated those foreign maritime presences, would have disappeared.

Within its limited capacities, the African Union is attempting to meet the needs of its peacekeeping operations through its Peace Fund, which has been receiving 6 per cent of the AU's regular budget. On 31 August 2009, during the special session that it held in Tripoli on the consideration and resolution of conflicts in Africa and the promotion of sustainable peace, the AU decided to raise that amount to 12 per cent. We hope that the Fund's donor base will be expanded and that States able to do so will generously contribute to the Fund until a consensus can be reached within the Security Council on how to find a predictable and sustainable source of funding for AU peacekeeping operations that will enable them to meet United Nations standards and reach their authorized strength.

We appreciate the efforts of the United Nations to enhance the capacities of the AU. We also appreciate the support provided to AMISOM by the United Nations and donors, and we hope that that support will continue and grow until AMISOM becomes a United Nations mission.

We must not forget that responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests first and foremost with the Security Council. The activities of the African Union are meant to support the role entrusted to the Security Council in Chapter VIII of the Charter. Therefore, promoting partnership and shouldering its responsibility towards African Union peacekeeping operations are duties mandated by the Charter, and the Council must carry out those duties and responsibilities without hesitation.

Mr. Urbina (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish at the outset to thank Under-Secretary-General Le Roy for his briefing and Mr. Antonio for his statement this morning. I recognize the presence among us of Mr. Prodi and thank him once again for his work as Chair of the African Union-United Nations panel.

Costa Rica is convinced that a new era of cooperation between the United Nations and regional and subregional organizations has arrived. Such cooperation is no longer an aspiration or, much less, a claim; it is a need, given the array and the nature of the crises that must be faced by bringing together as many efforts as possible. Cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations has received greater attention by the Security Council in recent years, particularly cooperation with the African Union. However dialogue between the two organizations stands to be strengthened. The Prodi report (S/2008/813) and the report of the Secretary-General that we are discussing today (S/2009/470) bear witness to this. Costa Rica understands the scope of the cooperation between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council; however we believe that the matters at the heart of that cooperation must necessarily go beyond the financing of peacekeeping operations.

In the maintenance of peace and security in Africa there are shortcomings of which we are all aware. The hostilities among participants, sometimes violent, sometimes concealed, are long-lasting and consume resources essential to the task of building peace. Still, these are opportunities to show maturity and capability. Further, there is a wide array of other possible areas of cooperation that must be strengthened, such as on issues like conflict prevention, early warnings and mediation. The cases of Kenya and Madagascar and the current situation in Guinea are examples of what is possible and show clearly how necessary it is to strengthen cooperation. At this phase in the process of rapprochement and joint endeavours, the key to effective strategic association

would seem to be found in timelier, deeper interaction between the two organizations.

Formal contacts between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council should be reviewed. Let us recall that this year the annual meeting of the councils did not take place due to a matter of formalities. The format of these meetings would not seem to be the most appropriate either. Because of the size of the two structures, the meetings are not very functional. There is a need for greater substantive preparation and this must include the preparation of special envoys, joint mediators and other senior officials who work directly in the primary situations of the joint agenda.

On the level of the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission, we support the recommendation of the Secretary-General aimed at establishing an official mechanism for consultation on matters of mutual interest, as well as the recommendation for the establishment of a team at the Under-Secretary-General and African Union Commissioner levels.

Since the foundation of this Organization there has been a recognition, in Chapter VIII of the Charter, of the role of regional organizations in maintaining international peace and security. Because of their obvious relative advantages, the regional organizations can be in a better position to act in moments of crisis. The African Union has done just that on many occasions, including, most recently in Somalia and Darfur.

However, beyond merely reacting to crises, the most important contribution of the regional organizations to international peace and security is that of their role as mechanisms of collective security. In its Presidential Statement of 19 November 2008 (S/PRST/2008/43), the Security Council underscored the relationship among collective security, disarmament and the development of peoples. The primary function of regional organizations is to offer their members real security assurances, allowing them to allocate their resources to development instead of diverting resources to arms races.

This issue is particularly relevant in Africa, where each cent spent on weapons could be better used in education, health care or other areas promoting the economic and social development of their peoples. The African Union must bolster its efforts to vigorously promote collective security on the continent. The situations between Chad and Sudan, between Djibouti and Eritrea and between Ethiopia and Eritrea represent a call upon the African Union to deploy additional efforts and to attain greater effectiveness in maintaining peace and security. There are also opportunities to strengthen African Union commitments to development in the economic and social spheres of the nations of Africa.

To conclude, I express my appreciation to the delegation of Uganda for having prepared the presidential statement that we will adopt at the close of this debate. My country supports that statement fully.

Ms. Rice (United States of America): I want to thank Under-Secretary-General Le Roy for his briefing today, Under-Secretary-General Malcorra for her presence and Mr. Antonio for providing the perspective of the African Union. We thank as well Mr. Prodi for his participation today.

I would like to take a moment to salute the many African nations that support peacekeeping operations with resources, police and troops. These contributions have saved lives across the continent and around the world. We are here today to promote that vital work by deepening the partnership between the African Union (AU) and the United Nations. We appreciate the work of Mr. Prodi, the AU-United Nations panel and the Secretary-General in laying out and carefully analysing possible next steps to advance this important partnership.

The United States fully supports enhanced strategic ties between the Security Council and the AU Peace and Security Council, along with more structured coordination between the United Nation Secretariat and the AU Commission. We also welcome the attention of the African Union to develop a long-term, comprehensive, capacity-building roadmap in cooperation with the United Nations and international partners. We will continue to support the effort to enhance the AU secretariat's capacity to plan, manage and sustain peacekeeping operations. And we are dedicated to helping to build the capacity of all African nations to secure peace through mediation, crisis management, post-conflict reconstruction and the development of conflict-prevention capabilities within civilian institutions and civil society.

The United States applauds the contributions of African nations to peace and security. Currently more

than 70 per cent of United Nations military personnel are deployed to missions in Africa. We note that African nations provide approximately 43 per cent of the forces in United Nations missions on the continent, and we recognize the major deployment of over 5,100 AU personnel in Somalia and the critical work being done together by the African Union/United Nations Hybrid operation in Darfur.

As President Obama emphasized during his meeting with major troop- and police-contributing countries last month, the United States is doing its part to improve peacekeeping operations across the continent and around the globe. We are consulting more closely and frequently than ever with leading troop- and police-contributing countries, as well as other peacekeeping partners. We are seeking mandates that are matched by the capacity and resources of their peacekeeping missions. We are intensifying efforts to mediate conflicts and revive flagging peace processes. We are helping the United Nations to mobilize critical assets, including medical, engineering and transportation units, and are devoting more attention to peacebuilding activities so that Governments can enable peacekeepers to responsibly exit when their work is done.

Throughout all this, we recognize the need for secure and stable funding for African Union peacekeeping. The United States has been and will remain a major bilateral contributor to African peacekeeping operations and to training and equipping initiatives. We support the use of a multi-donor trust fund. We have also supported, on an exceptional basis, the use of assessed contributions to support the African Union Mission in Somalia. However, we must stress that that decision was only possible in the unique circumstances of Somalia, and the United States is unable to make a broad commitment to support such arrangements in future operations.

To demonstrate clearly our seriousness of purpose, I will mention just a few of our investments in African peacekeeping since we last discussed this topic in March.

Through the African contingency operations and training assistance programme, the United States has trained over 28 battalions from 15 African countries to prepare over 23,000 peacekeepers for deployment. We have provided substantial equipment packages to African troop-contributing countries, including nearly $20 million in equipment packages for Burundian and Ugandan battalions in AMISOM and another $20 million for 72 urgently needed armoured vehicles. The United States Government has also trained, equipped and airlifted several battalions to serve in Darfur. We continue to support the presence of peace and security advisers at both the African Union's Strategic Planning and Management Unit and at ECOWAS headquarters.

Those contributions demonstrate our commitment to strengthen the African Union's peacekeeping capabilities, but we recognize that there is much more work to be done. The scale of the challenge is great, and so we encourage other donors to provide financial support for African peacekeeping bilaterally, through multi-donor trust funds or through other mechanisms.

We have taken careful note of the Secretary-General's call for donors to coordinate more closely and to harmonize administrative reporting and accounting requirements.

It is in the interest of all nations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of African peacekeeping. We believe that through coordinated efforts between African nations and the international community, including the United Nations, we can achieve real progress. The United States remains steadfast in its commitment to strengthen peacekeepers across Africa and around the world. We are pleased to support the presidential statement that will be issued today.

Mr. Rugunda (Uganda): Thank you, Mr. President, for organizing this important debate. I would like to thank Under-Secretary-General Alain Le Roy for presenting the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/470). I recognize the presence of Under-Secretary-General Susana Malcorra. Let me also thank the representative of the African Union, Mr. Tete Antonio, for his statement and thank His Excellency Romano Prodi for his words of wisdom and for his formidable leadership regarding the need for building a strategic relationship between the African Union and the United Nations.

This debate gives the Council and other Members of the United Nations another opportunity to focus on peace and security in Africa in general and on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations in particular.

We commend the panel led by Mr. Prodi for their report (S/2008/813), which made a number of key recommendations on how the strategic relationship between the African Union and the United Nations could be further strengthened. That report was an important contribution towards the overall efforts to enhance the capacity of the African Union in undertaking peacekeeping operations.

We recall that after the debate on the Prodi report (see S/PV.6092 and 6092 (Resumption 1)), the Security Council requested the Secretary-General to submit an assessment of the recommendations contained in it. We are convinced that the Secretary-General has made a reasonable assessment of the Panel's recommendations, giving the Council a firm basis on which to take the process forward.

The primary responsibility for maintenance of international peace and security is vested in the Security Council. But peacekeeping is increasingly becoming a shared responsibility in which the United Nations, regional and subregional organizations and the wider international community have critical roles to play. The United Nations/African Union Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) are good examples of the collaboration between the United Nations and African Union.

The African Union has shown its resolve towards conflict prevention, mediation and resolution in Africa. It is working on a comprehensive peace and security architecture, including an African standby force and early warning system. The African Union has also underscored the need for its member States to adhere to constitutionalism, democratic governance and the rule of law.

The African Union and its subregional organizations such as the East African Community (EAC), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and the South African Development Community (SADC) have developed significant capacity, as demonstrated by their response to conflict situations in various countries. African ownership has been shown through the contribution of troops, logistics, political leadership and finances, according to the capacity of its member States.

Uganda welcomes the ongoing efforts to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union. We commend the Secretary-General and his staff, and also the Chairman of the African Union Commission, for the efforts undertaken in fostering stronger ties between the African Union and the United Nations. We are convinced that building a more strategic and effective relationship will be mutually beneficial in our collective efforts towards peace, stability and development. My delegation would like to focus on three fundamental elements that we consider critical for the success of this strategic partnership.

First, when the African Union deploys peacekeeping operations it is contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security. It has the advantages of proximity and capability to mobilize and respond quickly. But often the African Union lacks the financial resources to do that. The Security Council, in its resolution 1809 (2008), recognized the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of funding for regional organizations when they undertake peacekeeping operations under a United Nations mandate.

It was the expectation of the African Union that the Security Council would, this time, make a firm commitment in this regard. The African Union-United Nations Panel made an unequivocal recommendation to consider the use of assessed contributions for specific peacekeeping operations on a case-by-case basis for a period of six months to facilitate transition to a United Nations mission. That recommendation was also positively assessed by the Secretary-General in his report.

Both the Panel and the Secretary-General also acknowledged that voluntary contributions are not only unpredictable but also unsustainable. That is borne out by the example of pledges to AMISOM of over $230 million that were made in April 2009; to date only a small proportion of the confirmed pledges have been disbursed. And yet the AMISOM troops are on the ground in Somalia, taking enormous risks and at times making the ultimate sacrifice, on behalf of the region and the international community. The authorization of a support package for AMISOM was therefore a welcome and significant contribution.

After several months of deliberations on the critical issue of financing African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council, it is not enough for the Council to only undertake to keep all

options under consideration. It is important to recognize that an ineffective United Nations peacekeeping capacity anywhere in the world greatly undermines the credibility of the United Nations in the eyes of the population.

Secondly, there is a need to strengthen further the relationship between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council with respect to conflict prevention, mediation, peacekeeping and peacebuilding. We also call for the enhancement of regular interaction, coordination and consultation between the United Nations and the African Union Commission on matters of mutual interest.

Thirdly, the institutional capacity of the African Union needs to be enhanced to ensure the effective planning, management and deployment of peacekeeping operations. We encourage the African Union Commission to develop a long-term comprehensive capacity-building framework, in consultation with the United Nations and other international partners.

Let me reiterate that peacekeeping is an essential and indispensable tool available to the United Nations and regional organizations in the maintenance of international peace and security. Its effectiveness will be further enhanced through closer cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the African Union. Uganda therefore considers this debate to be part of a process in which actions and decisions will be taken to better support and facilitate AU peacekeeping operations.

It is time that the Council took decisive action and committed itself to practical ways to provide effective support for the African Union when it undertakes peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations. I wish to once again commend the AU-United Nations panel and the Secretary-General for their reports and, finally, I thank all delegations for their contributions to the draft presidential statement as an outcome of our deliberations.

Mr. Mayr-Harting (Austria): We are grateful for the important contributions made today to our debate by Under-Secretary-General Alain Le Roy, Ambassador Tete Antonio and President Romano Prodi. I would also like to acknowledge the presence here today of Under-Secretary-General Malcorra.

I would like to join others in thanking the Secretary-General for his report (S/2009/470) on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations. Austria fully supports the statement to be delivered later in our meeting by the representative of Sweden on behalf of the European Union.

Since earlier this year, the Security Council has been examining key questions of United Nations peacekeeping. The Council does so in response to the increased demand for more complex peacekeeping activities and the subsequent new approach that is required towards the successful implementation of these activities. The Secretary-General's report, following up on the work of the African Union-United Nations panel (see S/2008/813), provides us with one more important contribution to our discussion of this very pertinent issue. It rightly focuses on areas of particular relevance to the close cooperation between the United Nations and the African Union.

The strategic partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations with regard to peacekeeping is of great importance to international peace and security. In this context, the close cooperation and coordination between the United Nations and the African Union, including the regional economic communities, have been of vital importance to conflict resolution, prevention, early warning and mediation on the African continent. Austria strongly welcomes the increasingly important role of the African Union in this regard.

Strengthening the African Union's institutional capacities for peacekeeping operations is essential if the African Union is to take on a more significant role in the maintenance of peace and security in Africa. The Secretary-General has made several proposals on how to address this issue, including the development of a comprehensive plan and road map for capacity-building to be drawn up by the African Union with the support of the United Nations and other relevant partners. Austria welcomes this recommendation and believes that its implementation needs to be considered in the light of ongoing efforts in capacity-building, supported by the European Union and other international actors with a view to ensuring African ownership and close coordination among all relevant activities and actors.

In this context, we would also like to commend the current African Union Commission for its leadership in strengthening African capabilities, and would like to invite all African Union member States to lend their full support to these efforts. We hope that important and courageous decisions will be taken in the near future.

We are of the opinion that the partnership among the African Union, the United Nations and the European Union has been extremely beneficial to crisis management on the African continent. The Africa Peace Facility, as well as the close coordination and cooperation among the three organizations in specific peacekeeping situations — such as we experienced in the case of the transition from the European Union military operation in the Republic of Chad and in the Central African Republic to the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad — demonstrate that this triangular partnership is beneficial to all.

In his report, the Secretary-General also outlines possible ways to support African Union-led peacekeeping missions under a United Nations mandate. As I have said on an earlier occasion at which we discussed this matter, Austria warmly welcomes a stronger role for the African Union in conflict prevention and resolution in Africa. We therefore believe that all options — and I insist on all — outlined by the Secretary-General in his report, aimed at supporting African Union-led peacekeeping missions under United Nations mandates should be seriously and substantively considered further. I listened very closely to what my colleague, the Permanent Representative of Uganda, just said on this subject.

The question of establishing adequate accountability mechanisms for the different support activities to the African Union is also critical. We concur with the assessment of the Secretary-General that donors and all other stakeholders should harmonize their respective reporting and accountability standards to alleviate the burden imposed on the African Union by numerous existing requirements.

Austria believes that the use of lessons learned is of great relevance to future cooperation between the organizations and would allow them to identify measures for improving their cooperation even further. We welcome the idea of drawing up such lessons, and we believe that this exercise should be undertaken with all partners involved in order to benefit from their respective comparative advantages and insights.

Austria is convinced that, in our way ahead, important cross-cutting issues such as respect for international law and human rights — especially the rights of women and children in armed conflict — and the protection of civilians should be integral parts of our approach. We further believe that it is essential to take into account the views and concerns of troop- and police-contributing countries.

Finally, let me express my delegation's full support for the draft presidential statement and thank Uganda for drafting it and for leading the negotiations to a successful conclusion.

Mr. Vilović (Croatia): At the outset, allow me to thank Under-Secretary-General Alain Le Roy for his valuable remarks, and Under-Secretary-General Susana Malcorra for her presence with us today. I would particularly like to thank Mr. Romano Prodi for his contribution and for all his endeavours, and Mr. Tete Antonio for his contribution to our work today.

Croatia fully supports the statement to be delivered later today by the Swedish representative on behalf of the European Union.

We have read with great interest the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/470) on practical ways to provide effective support to the African Union in undertaking peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations, including his detailed assessment of the recommendations contained in the report (S/2008/813) of the African Union-United Nations panel established under resolution 1809 (2008).

Recognizing the primary responsibility of the Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security, Croatia supports the increasing engagement of regional and subregional organizations in conflict prevention, peacekeeping and post-conflict reconstruction, consistent with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

In that context, we further support the development of an effective strategic partnership between the United Nations and African Union (AU) on matters relating to the maintenance of peace and security, as well as the strengthening of coordination and consultation mechanisms between the two organizations at all levels in order to make the most of their respective advantages and, at the same time, to

avoid working at cross purposes. I should like to mention that the third meeting between Security Council and African Union members during the Council's visit to Africa last May constituted a step in that direction. In that regard, we welcome the establishment of a United Nations-AU task force charged with reviewing immediate and long-term strategic and operational issues.

Peacekeeping operations undertaken by the AU so far have clearly shown the exceptional value of rapid response on the part of regional actors, as well as the benefits of national and local ownership of such actions. In this regard, we welcome the AU decision to increase the statutory transfer from the Union's regular budget to the AU Peace Fund from 6 per cent to 12 per cent.

Furthermore, we salute all those African States that have so far contributed troops and supported peacekeeping operations throughout the region and beyond. We salute Uganda and Burundi, in particular, for their extraordinary involvement and sacrifices in Somalia. On the other hand, the fact that some of the operations undertaken were seriously constrained by a lack of military capabilities, inadequate resources or weak institutional capacity is certainly a reason for major concern.

Croatia shares the view that peacekeeping is not the only tool for dealing with every conflict and that peace and stability in Africa — as well as in many other troubled regions of the world — cannot be achieved through military means alone. We strongly encourage cooperation between the AU and the United Nations on a number of capacity-building initiatives under the 2006 United Nations-African Union Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme in relevant fields such as conflict prevention, early warning and conflict resolution and mediation. We believe that a forward-looking capacity-development strategy must link the resources of the United Nations with those of other partners in the field. We also strongly support ongoing efforts to strengthen the African Peace and Security Architecture as well as to operationalize the African Standby Force, which would definitely represent a major contribution to peace and security in Africa.

We call on the AU to undertake further intensive efforts to enhance its capabilities to plan and execute peacekeeping operations, as well as to develop a long-term capacity-building road map in cooperation with its international partners. At the same time, we are of the view that there is a dire need for better coordination between the numerous donor-sponsored initiatives and other contributions targeting the area of peace and security — of which there are more than 130, as we learned from the Prodi report (S/2008/813). This should alleviate, to a certain extent, the burden on the AU administrative capacities in the field, which have not been fully developed and which are often bogged down by reporting obligations to donors and by multiple audits. In that context, we welcome United Nations efforts to develop a harmonized administrative and financial management framework that could consolidate funding based on a limited number of thematic programmes and a single financial reporting format in order to further engage existing donors and to attract new ones, including from the private sector.

Croatia believes that the issue of the funding of regional peacekeeping operations remains central to enhancing the relationship between the United Nations and the AU. We share a common understanding that predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing of AU peacekeeping operations is of the utmost importance. We are looking forward to the continuation of the consideration of all options outlined in the Secretary-General's report, bearing in mind at the same time the established rules and practices of the United Nations.

We also note with great interest the idea of establishing, within the framework of the African Union's Peace Fund and in accordance with the principles of financial accountability, a flexible multi-donor trust fund in order to maximize the effectiveness of voluntary contributions and provide the necessary sustainability, predictability and flexibility of resources.

Finally, let me reiterate our full support for the principle of African ownership as a crucial factor not only for effective action in the field of peace and security in Africa, but also for socio-economic development. In that context, strong partnerships with the international community should only serve as a tool to finally cement and reconfirm that ownership.

Lastly, I express my full support for the draft presidential statement and I thank the Ugandan delegation for having prepared it.

Mr. Takasu (Japan): I should like to thank Under-Secretary-General Le Roy for his introduction

of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/470). I also welcome the participation of His Excellency Mr. Romano Prodi and the representative of the African Union (AU) and, of course, the presence among us of Under-Secretary-General Malcorra.

First and foremost, there will be no peace and security in the world without peace and security in Africa. Japan therefore welcomes the opportunity to discuss how to further strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and the AU.

We are grateful for the report of the United Nations-African Union panel (see S/2008/813) and the report of the Secretary-General, which together provide a sound basis for our considerations. I should like to emphasize that to achieve peace and security in Africa we must address peace and development in an integrated manner. Durable peace cannot be achieved without securing the safety, livelihood and dignity of the people living in conflict situations. Efforts towards peace and security should be accompanied by appropriate actions in favour of development. In that belief, Japan continues to support the efforts of African countries to consolidate peace and achieve economic growth through the process of the Tokyo International Conference on African Development, which has been very successful.

More than 68,000 uniformed men and women are now deployed in peacekeeping operations, at work throughout Africa. We are deeply grateful to them. Taking the magnitude of this number into account, close cooperation between the United Nations and AU is indispensable at every stage from conflict resolution to peacekeeping and peacebuilding. The mandates of peacekeeping operations increasingly include such activities as disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and the promotion of good governance and the rule of law. The broad range of peacebuilding activities which go beyond peacekeeping operations could be synchronized closely with the operations. Effective peacebuilding efforts are also an important factor in planning exit strategies for peacekeeping operations.

I should like now to turn to the issues of the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the AU, capacity-building and the financing of AU operations. First, we should further promote the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the AU at all levels — at the Council level and between the Secretariat and Commission — because it is beneficial to both organizations to share information and to consult and coordinate whenever making decisions affecting each other. Close cooperation between the United Nations and the AU is also essential for the planning and management phase of peacekeeping operations. In this connection, I should like to urge the Secretariat to review and streamline the various United Nations presences in its Addis Ababa office, and to make them more cost-effective, to achieve the purpose of strengthening the strategic partnership with the AU.

Secondly, I should like to address ownership and capacity-building. The efforts of the AU and African countries to undertake peacekeeping operations should be highly commended. But durable peace cannot be achieved by peacekeepers alone. Political and peace processes are essential to promote and consolidate peace. The most effective political processes come from the initiatives of African leaders themselves. We therefore welcome the political efforts of African countries, through the AU and subregional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States and the Southern Africa Development Community, to resolve conflicts with a strong sense of ownership. We welcome the decision of the AU Summit to request the AU Commission to take preparatory steps to increase statutory transfers from the AU budget to the Peace Fund from 6 to 12 per cent. Japan has also welcomed and supported the AU Panel of the Wise, which is playing an important role to mediate and resolve conflict in the region.

With regard to capacity-building, it is essential to extend support to strengthen the capacity of African troop-contributing countries. Japan has committed to assist the capacity-building of the African Peace and Security Architecture through the Peace Fund. We are also contributing to national and regional capacity-building, including support for peacekeeping operations training centres in Egypt, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, South Africa and many other places. It is also important to support the African Union's Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme, as the Programme will be evaluated at the end of this year. I hope this assessment will contribute to improving future implementation.

Thirdly, with regard to the financial aspects of African Union-led peacekeeping operations, I wish to make the following general points at this stage. First,

the launching of peacekeeping operations requires well-qualified personnel, training, equipment, transportation, logistical support and financial resources. We understand the desire to secure stable resources for those purposes. Secondly, peacekeeping operations which are authorized and conducted by the African Union and its subregional organizations are supported by the African Union budget and voluntary contributions. Thirdly, the main issue is peacekeeping operations which are organized and conducted by the African Union but also authorized by the Security Council. Such operations are also financed by the African Union budget and voluntary contributions. Japan, for its part, has been actively contributing to African Union operations, including $11 million to support African Union activities in the Sudan and $9 million to the trust fund for the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), as well as support for other activities.

It is important for all donors to disburse their pledges early and to monitor and coordinate their activities with other donors. This practice is similar to peace operations in other parts of the world which are also authorized by the Security Council but conducted by non-United Nations entities. We note recent cases of using United Nations assessed contributions for United Nations support packages to African Union peacekeeping operations — the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS) and AMISOM — when it is a matter of either the start-up stage of a United Nations peacekeeping operation, as in the case of AMIS, or an essential integral part of a transition to a United Nations peacekeeping operation, as in the case of AMISOM.

In order for the United Nations budget to be used established rules and procedures of the United Nations must be followed. The United Nations Charter clearly states that all expenses of the United Nations shall be borne by Members through assessed contributions. This is a fundamental rule of the Organization, which must be taken into account when considering the options mentioned in the report of the Secretary-General.

In conclusion, the issue of peace and security in Africa entails many challenges. Japan is hopeful, however, that the African countries can find a way towards a bright future, and we are determined to continue contributing to that process.

Mr. Heller (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation thanks Under-Secretary-General Alain Le Roy for his introduction of the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/470), and we are grateful for the analysis and recommendations it contains. We also appreciate the presence of Under-Secretary-General Susana Malcorra and thank Mr. Tete Antonio for his message from the Permanent Observer Mission of the African Union to the United Nations. We also very much regret that no member of Mr. Prodi's delegation has taken the trouble to remain in the Chamber to hear the Council's debate.

Pursuant to Chapter VIII, Article 52, of the United Nations Charter, the Security Council has repeatedly reaffirmed the importance of building African Union capacities in the maintenance of peace and security in Africa in coordination and cooperation with the United Nations. However, it is clear that the international community should work together to improve the situation and capacity of the African Union, in order to create a true bridge of international and regional cooperation and communication aimed at optimizing collective attention to the challenges faced by the African continent, in the light of the proliferation of conflicts on the agenda and the fact these constitute a good part of that agenda.

My delegation believes that to strengthen peacebuilding and peacekeeping in Africa, four main profoundly interrelated areas must be addressed simultaneously: conflict resolution, which means establishing peace; economic development and the building of institutions; respect for human rights; and conflict prevention, based on attention to and eradication of the causes of conflict. None of these tasks may substitute for the other. In many cases, the challenge posed by the magnitude of the task lies in addressing these four enormous tasks simultaneously.

We praise the resolve of the United Nations in moving forward in those areas, and we recognize the stated willingness of the African Union to rapidly deploy mediation and peacekeeping missions, with the support of subregional organizations, in order to prevent the escalation of conflict. However, we also recognize that material and logistical limitations of the African Union have reduced the scope of these objectives.

It is essential — and we must be honest on this point — to promote greater coherence within the

Security Council in order to achieve greater coordination when joint decisions are taken by the African Union Commission and the United Nations Secretariat. In that regard, we support the recommendation of the Secretary-General that relations between the African Union Peace and Security Council and the United Nations Security Council be strengthened in the areas of mediation and peacekeeping. In that regard, we welcome the fact that in the context of the May 2009 Security Council trip to Africa, representatives of both bodies made a commitment to us that they would carry out consultations on ways and means for strengthening cooperation and partnership.

It is obvious that much remains to be done along those lines. Clearly this relationship will lead to greater understanding and clear and comprehensive approaches in specific situations such as the crises in Somalia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Sudan. Should this not occur, there is a risk that we will not achieve better coordination and will be left with only our good intentions.

We also welcome the recommendations for the establishment of a structured mechanism for consultations and information exchange on matters of mutual interest to both bodies to examine current and long-term strategic and operational matters. This would also assist the implementation of the 2006 Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme as a general framework for United Nations support for the African Union in the area of international peace and security.

Further, my delegation awaits the proposal to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the General Assembly on restructuring United Nations support to the African Union in the area of peace and security on the ground, including further measures aimed at bringing greater integration and streamlining of the Secretariat presence in Addis Ababa.

Mexico agrees with the African Union-United Nations panel chaired by Romano Prodi that the success of any peacekeeping operation requires not only a clear mandate but also the support and resources needed for the fulfilment of the mandate. For that reason, we understand that predictable, sustainable and flexible financing mechanisms are a priority requirement. In that regard, we recognize the efforts of the Secretary-General to propose possible financing options for African Union-led and United Nations-endorsed peacekeeping operations for a period of six months and based on concrete cases.

We believe it is relevant to analyse in depth the five proposed financing mechanisms based on the efficacy and experience of the African Union Mission in Somalia, the African Union Mission in Sudan and the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur. We should also consider the report that the African Union will submit on identifying capacity-building priorities for peacekeeping logistics, administration and management, which would serve as the framework for guiding assistance programmes and financing mechanisms.

We welcome the progress made in recent years in strengthening the role of the African Union and the continent's subregional organizations in the maintenance of peace and security. We also welcome the implementation of strategies for prevention, early warning, conflict resolution and mediation. In this regard, we deeply appreciate the efforts of African countries that provide contingents for peacekeeping operations in and outside of the region, including on other continents.

Lastly, we support the draft presidential statement prepared by the delegation of Uganda that will be adopted as the outcome of today's debate. We agree that a peacekeeping operation is part of a political solution, but not a substitute for such a solution. Parallel actions must be undertaken to strengthen and support preventive diplomacy, early warning, mediation and conflict resolution. We must focus on those areas if we are to attain peace and security in Africa.

The President: I shall now make a statement in my national capacity.

I thank Under-Secretary-General Alain Le Roy; Mr. Tete Antonio, Acting Permanent Observer of the African Union to the United Nations; and Mr. Romano Prodi for their participation and contribution to the work of the Council in today's meeting. I also thank Under-Secretary-General Malcorra for her presence here today, and welcome the participation of the States members of the African Union (AU) in this debate.

While the Security Council has primary responsibility in the maintenance of international peace and security, regional and subregional organizations are playing an increasingly significant role in

peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations. Nowhere in the world has this fact manifested itself more vividly than in Africa. Hence, enhancing the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union will boost the international community's collective power in resolving conflicts in Africa and improve the latter's capacity to resolve existing local conflicts and prevent future ones.

We fully support the promotion of the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union in the area of peacekeeping, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, resolution 1809 (2008) and relevant presidential statements of the Security Council.

Since the adoption of resolution 1809 (2008) in April 2008, considerable progress has been made in United Nations-AU cooperation and partnership in this field. Endowed with its comparative advantage and valuable experiences and lessons accumulated through decades of carrying out peacekeeping operations in Africa, the African Union is capable of making important contributions to the success of any United Nations-authorized joint peacekeeping operation on the African continent.

Finding ways and means to effectively support AU peacekeeping operations will add value to the Security Council's task of maintaining international peace and security. Enhanced dialogue and close consultation in their respective decision-making processes between the United Nations and the African Union should be further promoted, especially between the Security Council and the AU Commission. This cooperation can range from conflict analysis to strategy development and the operational planning of peacekeeping activities.

We note with appreciation that a mechanism for joint annual meetings between the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council has been established and implemented for the past three years. We support ongoing efforts to promote information exchange and cooperation between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission.

Due to its limited resources and capacity, the African Union has faced tremendous difficulties in carrying out peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations. Further support should be extended to ensure the successful finalization of the United Nations-African Union 10-year capacity-building programme. The efforts made by the African Union, with the support of the United Nations, to build, over the long term, the African Standby Force, should also be recognized and encouraged.

Regarding financial contributions, which remain one of the thorniest challenges to the success of joint United Nations-AU peacekeeping operations, we take due note of the recommendations put forth in the AU-United Nations panel report (S/2008/813) and the Secretary-General's assessment of these recommendations, and hold that all options deserve due consideration.

We call on all able donor countries to extend necessary financial and logistical resources to facilitate the implementation of present and future AU peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations. In this connection, we welcome the readiness of the European Union to earmark funds for the AU in the framework of its Africa Peace Facility.

Finally, we share the Secretary-General's observation that peacekeeping is merely part of a political solution, not an alternative to it. Adequate attention should be paid to preventive diplomacy, early warning, conflict prevention and mediation. Lessons from Kenya, Darfur, Mauritania, Zimbabwe, Madagascar and many other flashpoints in Africa have shown the importance of early warning and mediation in preventing and resolving local conflicts.

Apart from pooling resources for peacekeeping operations, earmarking sufficient resources for socio-economic development to address the root causes of conflicts on that continent must be considered a priority because it is the only way to prevent the recurrence of conflicts and sustain peace and stability where it they have been hard-earned.

I thank the delegation of Uganda for drafting the draft presidential statement that we will adopt at the end of this meeting.

I resume my functions as President of the Security Council.

I call on the representative of Sweden.

Mr. Lidén (Sweden): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union. Turkey, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Ukraine, the Republic

of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

As highlighted in the recent New Horizon non-paper, the global demand for peacekeeping activities requires a new strategic approach. Developing close and effective partnerships between key actors should be the centrepiece of such an approach. We agree with the assessment of the Secretary-General in his report on support to African Union-led peacekeeping operations (S/2009/470) that partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations have become a critical factor of modern peacekeeping.

The strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union, including the regional economic communities, should continue to be developed. Efforts should be made to increase the efficiency of relations between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council, as well as between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission. The European Union takes note of the measures proposed by the Secretary-General on how to move forward with this partnership.

In peacekeeping, a triangular dynamic is evolving among the United Nations, the African Union and the European Union. The current support to Somalia is a case in point. The United Nations and the European Union both give substantial support to the African Union Mission in Somalia. The European Union has also deployed a naval operation to protect vessels of the World Food Program from pirates.

The European Union continues to support the institutional capacity-building of the African Union. A road map to operationalize the African Peace and Security Architecture is about to be finalized by the African Union, the regional economic communities and the European Union. The United Nations is engaged through a 10-year capacity-building programme.

The Secretary-General has now proposed a number of new initiatives. One useful idea is to develop a broad road map for capacity-building. African ownership has to be ensured, and it should be part of the wider strategic plan of the African Union. Lessons learned from, inter alia, the African Peace Facility should be taken into consideration in any new initiative for capacity-building.

We recognize the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing for African Union-led operations under a United Nations mandate, while not ruling out any option currently being studied. We are committed to seeking pragmatic and effective ways by which bilateral and other international partners of the African Union could further support the development of the African Peace and Security Architecture.

The European Union recognizes the authority of the Security Council and the General Assembly to decide on United Nations modalities of support on a case by case basis for African Union-led peacekeeping operations under a United Nations mandate. Any proposal must be accompanied by appropriate accountability mechanisms. At the same time, long-term capacity-building should be pursued.

The European Union remains strongly engaged with the United Nations and the African Union in peacekeeping. The United Nations and the European Union are increasingly developing joint strategic responses. The members of the European Union bear roughly 40 per cent of the costs of United Nations-led peacekeeping operations. Peace and security is a central part in the strategic relationship between the African Union and the European Union. The African Peace Facility has become an important tool for the funding of African Union-led peacekeeping operations. Today, the European Union bears about 40 per cent of the costs of African-led peacekeeping operations.

The United Nations and the European Union share the ambition to support the African Union in general and, not least, in peacekeeping. The information exchange and coordination of our respective support should be further strengthened to ensure coherence and additional synergies.

The European Union is strongly committed to further developing its respective partnerships with the United Nations and the African Union, as well as to supporting similar endeavours between the United Nations and the African Union. We are determined to continue to assist the African Union in developing its own capacity to deliver peace and stability on the continent. The European Union would also welcome increased support for the peacekeeping efforts of the African Union from non-traditional donors.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Brazil.

Mrs. Viotti (Brazil): I would like to thank you, Mr. President, for the opportunity to address the Council on this important issue. I also wish to thank Under-Secretary-General Alain Le Roy for his briefing, and I appreciate the participation at this meeting of Mr. Tete Antonio, Acting Permanent Observer of the African Union (AU).

I also want to welcome the presence among us today of Mr. Romano Prodi. The Secretary-General's report on support to African Union peacekeeping operations (S/2009/470) draws effectively upon the Prodi report and its vision for an enhanced partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. I would like to echo Mr. Prodi's call for an approach that looks at Africa from a regional perspective, analyses African peacekeeping within the broader context of promoting social and economic development and strengthens the multilateral dimension of our efforts.

Brazil has a permanent, deep and multifaceted commitment to Africa that is rooted in our important historical, cultural and political links with the continent. We seek to support Africa's efforts to achieve peace, security and development through various means, from military cooperation to technical assistance and capacity-building. Brazil is currently contributing to five peacekeeping missions in Africa and has participated in many others in the past. We also seek to contribute to peacebuilding, in particular through our work in the Peacebuilding Commission's country-specific configuration for Guinea-Bissau.

More recently, we have engaged in initiatives designed to broaden the scope of our bilateral cooperation with African countries in such matters. In Guinea-Bissau, for instance, a Brazilian military mission has been established that is expected to be fully operational early next year, with a focus on training. We are beginning a programme of intense military cooperation with Mozambique, with a specific focus on capacity-building for peacekeeping operations. That involves training officers and exchanging experiences, which will ultimately enable Mozambique to create its own peacekeeping training centre. Consultations are under way with other countries in order to define the terms of enhanced bilateral military cooperation.

Peacekeeping is a global responsibility as well as a global asset. As the United Nations recognizes the African Union's ability to make a unique contribution to conflict prevention and peacekeeping on the continent, it must seek to extend all the necessary support for those endeavours. Cooperation with regional organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter is, first and foremost, a way for the Council to better exercise its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security.

The Secretary-General's report on support to African Union peacekeeping operations is a rich document that contains many useful proposals. I am certain that the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, the Security Council and the Fifth Committee will give it the careful consideration it deserves. Today, I would like to briefly comment on a few of the ideas put forth in the report.

My delegation endorses the need for a broader and more institutionalized dialogue between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council of the African Union. Such a dialogue must be informed by the will to listen, thus allowing for a genuine exchange of views with the aim of finding the most appropriate avenues of cooperation between the two organizations.

Brazil also believes that strengthening the ties between the Secretariat and the Commission of the African Union is of great importance. We welcome the report's suggestions in that regard. We look forward to debating the Secretary-General's forthcoming proposal to reconfigure the Secretariat's presence in Addis Ababa in the Fifth Committee.

Concerning the financing of peacekeeping operations carried out by the African Union under a United Nations mandate, it seems to my delegation that more work needs to be done. Building the African Union's capacity in the areas of budgeting, accounting and management is certainly an important aspect of that. Donors should also strive to harmonize their accountability requirements and to make their funding mechanisms more flexible, long-term and predictable.

The creation of a trust fund for African Union peacekeeping operations is an idea that deserves serious consideration. In our view, a trust fund could have two valuable results. First, it could attract a number of non-traditional donors who would find it difficult to participate in such efforts through the bilateral route. Secondly, by its very nature, the fund could help to address the challenge of coordinating

international cooperation, and thus make it more effective.

In conclusion, I wish to mention the need for us to see the maintenance of international peace and security in Africa, as anywhere in the world, as a process that is not, and cannot, be limited to peacekeeping. Conflict prevention, post-conflict peacebuilding and strong socio-economic development are key to maintaining and consolidating political stability. The Security Council, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, national Governments and the Secretariat should redouble their efforts to work together, under the principle of national ownership, to effectively support the efforts being made all over the African continent to build peaceful and prosperous societies. Brazil will continue to do its part.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of South Africa.

Mr. Sangqu (South Africa): We thank you, Mr. President, for allowing us to participate in this important debate today on peace and security in Africa. My delegation joins others in welcoming the presence of His Excellency Mr. Romano Prodi at this important debate. We also welcome the participation of Under-Secretaries-General Le Roy and Malcorra, and we thank them for introducing the report of the Secretary-General on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations (S/2009/470). We also wish to thank the Permanent Observer of the African Union (AU) for his statement. Our appreciation also goes to the Secretary-General for his report and for his assessment of the important recommendations contained in the report of the African Union-United Nations panel (S/2008/813) chaired by Mr. Prodi.

The United Nations Charter, as emphasized at the 2005 World Summit, recognizes the importance of forging predictable partnerships and cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations in order to confront current and future peace and security challenges. This recognition is articulated in accordance with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter.

Our efforts towards a strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union (AU) in the maintenance of peace and security on our continent are informed by the reality that regional organizations have a comparative advantage in confronting such challenges within their regions, as recognized by the Secretary-General in his report. The comparative advantage is increasingly allowing the AU to respond to conflicts in a proactive and rapid manner, limiting the escalation of conflict and human suffering in cases where the United Nations processes take a long time to decide and deploy while the situation on the ground is deteriorating. The comparative advantages of such an approach are clearly evident in the recent interventions by the African Union in the Sudan and Somalia, as well as through its mediation efforts and peace support operations, thus clearly demonstrating its political will and commitment to confronting peace and security challenges.

The African Union continues its efforts to implement the African Peace and Security Architecture to deal with conflict prevention in a sustainable manner. Recalling resolution 1809 (2008), we are cognizant that despite the demonstrated political will to resolve conflicts, the availability of predictable resources remains the most important constraint on Africa's capacity to give effect to those commitments and help resolve its own conflicts. The increase in peacekeeping operations in the past few years and the increasingly important role regions play in preventing, resolving and managing necessitate the continuation of dialogue between the United Nations and the AU to address that challenge.

We expect the Security Council, in acknowledgement of Africa's efforts, to play its role as the primary body responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, as provided for in its Charter. That support cannot be rationalized by advancing bureaucratic arguments to prevent us from doing what is morally and politically correct. A clear commitment and unambiguous message by this Council will dispel the perception of many Africans confronted by conflict that the international community is apathetic and indifferent and, at worst, places financial considerations above the interests of people's lives.

It is in this context that the current report of the Secretary-General is to be welcomed. In acting on the mandate of the Security Council as articulated in its presidential statement of 18 March 2009 (S/PRST/2009/3), the Secretary-General reported on practical ways to provide effective support for the African Union when it undertakes peacekeeping

operations. The report provides useful proposals and a detailed assessment of the recommendations contained in the report of the African Union-United Nations panel.

The report of the Secretary-General characterizes the role of the African Union and its regional organizations in supporting the Security Council under Chapter VIII of the Charter as a welcome development and makes important recommendations on how the United Nations and the international community could further ensure the sustainability and predictability of Africa's peacekeeping efforts that are mandated by the United Nations. The report provides clear guidelines and recommendations for ensuring a structured and strategic relationship between the United Nations and the African Union, which are worthy of serious consideration and immediate implementation.

The proposed recommendation on financial mechanisms also warrants particular attention and further exploration. Whereas those developments are to be welcomed and could form the basis for continued support and engagement, they should not result in complacency. Rather, in working with the African Union, the United Nations should continue to review and seek ways of ensuring predictable, flexible and sustainable financing for peacekeeping operations undertaken by the African Union.

It is my delegation's view that the General Assembly also could demonstrate its willingness to strengthen Africa's peacekeeping capacity and capability by considering the recommendations of the Secretary-General on financing options, just as the Council is doing here today.

In conclusion, South Africa supports the presidential statement to be adopted today by the Security Council. We eagerly await the establishment of the African Union-United Nations task team and its subsequent report on the implementation of the Secretary-General's recommendations.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Tunisia.

Mr. Jomaa (Tunisia): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the African Group.

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you, Mr. President, upon your presidency of the Security Council for this month and on the wise manner in which you have been conducting the Council's proceedings. We want to thank Mr. Le Roy for his presentation today and to welcome among us Mr. Romano Prodi.

It has been seven months since the Security Council adopted its presidential statement on the agenda item "Peace and security in Africa" on 18 March 2009 (S/PRST/2009/3). That statement constituted additional proof of the Council's recognition and awareness of the crucial importance of establishing more effective strategic relationships between the African Union and the United Nations. The ongoing process of continuous consultations and cooperation between the main bodies of both organizations is indeed commendable and should be further strengthened and improved.

We therefore welcome today's Council meeting to consider the Secretary-General's report entitled "Support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations"(S/2009/470), and we hope it will contribute to achieving tangible progress in this area.

While recognizing the Security Council's primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security, we are all well aware of the increasing importance of regional arrangements in the promotion of peace, security and stability in their respective regions. Africa is a perfect example of this rising new dynamism in regional arrangements.

The African Union has established a continental peace and security architecture and has shown its unswerving willingness and commitment to meet the challenges faced by the continent in terms of security and stability. The Peace and Security Council, the initiatives undertaken by the Panel of the Wise, the measures undertaken in the establishment of the Continental Early Warning System and the measures aimed at the launching of the African Standby Force illustrate this new dynamic.

Nevertheless, Africa's strong political will to overcome the difficulties related to peace and security on the continent needs to be bolstered by substantial support for the African Union's resource base and capacities. That was in fact the spirit of the report of the African Union-United Nations panel to consider the modalities of how to support African Union peacekeeping operations chaired by Mr. Prodi (S/2008/813) and the main purpose of the Secretary-General's report. The issues dealt with were, first, how

to establish a close strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union and which mechanisms and processes should be put in place to enhance the partnership between the two organizations; and secondly, what mechanisms are the most appropriate to ensure the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations.

In this context, the African Group would like to share with Council members some of our observations on these issues. We stress the importance of a more developed and effective partnership between the United Nations and regional organizations, especially the African Union.

Secondly, we underline the importance of the African Union-United Nations panel's report, dated 31 December 2008, on the modalities for support to African Union peacekeeping operations as a qualitative and decisive step towards improving this partnership for peacekeeping operations in Africa.

Thirdly, we take note of the recommendations in the Secretary-General's report of 18 September 2009. Those recommendations, as underlined at the 206th meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council held in Addis Ababa on 15 October 2009, "provide a good basis for strengthening cooperation between the African Union and the United Nations in the maintenance of peace and security".

Fourthly, we express the readiness of the African Union to continue its consultations and close cooperation with the United Nations in order to ensure "predictable, sustainable and flexible funding for African Union-led peace support operations" (*S/2009/470, para. 6*).

Fifthly, we note with appreciation the recommendations concerning capacity-building for peacekeeping operations.

Sixthly, we underscore the crucial importance of effective and continuous follow-up of these recommendations and the means to implement them.

The African Group considers that maintaining the momentum of fruitful discussion and consistent consideration of these issues, and ensuring adequate and timely follow-up on the agreed recommendations and measures to be taken, is essential to achieving our common ultimate goal: maintaining peace and security throughout the world by rendering peacekeeping more effective and more compatible with the requirements of each region.

The President: I call on the representative of Nigeria.

Mr. Onemola (Nigeria): Mr. President, I thank you for convening this debate on peace and security in Africa as it relates to support for African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations. The fact that this debate is taking place a few months after a similar one under the presidency of Libya (see S/PV.6092) is indicative of the importance the Council attaches to the issue.

Nigeria commends the Secretary-General for his incisive report contained in document S/2009/470, and thank Ambassador Tete Antonio, Acting Permanent Observer of the African Union, and Mr. Alain Le Roy, Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, for their illuminating briefings to the Council. Similarly, we recognize the presence of Mr. Romano Prodi in our midst at this important debate.

The recognition by the framers of the United Nations Charter that peace and stability are the precursors of social and economic development explains the special role given the Council on the question of maintaining international peace and security. Nigeria firmly supports the Security Council in its primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. However, regional organizations are a critical and integral component of a broader global strategy for maintaining and strengthening peace and security within the ambit of Chapter VIII of the Charter.

My delegation is encouraged by the continued close collaboration between the United Nations and the African Union in their efforts to strengthen partnership in the area of peace and security, and by the cooperative endeavours of the two organizations towards achieving peace and security in such challenging situations as in Darfur and Somalia. The Council should therefore build on lessons learned from these endeavours in strengthening future cooperative work.

If the African Union is to continue to undertake responsibilities effectively and efficiently, it requires robust support for its existing peace and security architecture, which consists of the Peace and Security

Council, the Continental Early Warning System, the Panel of the Wise, the African Standby Force and the Peace Fund. Africa also needs sustainable, flexible and predictable funding for peacekeeping operations, as well as support for facilitating building the continent's peacekeeping capacity and institutional mechanisms.

For these reasons, Nigeria has been steadfast in its commitment to the United Nations, the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in regard to strengthening peace and security, particularly at the regional levels. In this regard, Nigeria has played a proactive role in regional efforts to complement the Security Council's primary duty of maintaining peace and security and in consonance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, concerning regional arrangements. As chief motivator for the creation of the ECOWAS Ceasefire Monitoring Group in 1990, Nigeria provided the backbone of the troops that enforced the Cotonou peace agreement for Liberia, ended the civil war and military rule, and restored democratically elected Governments in Liberia and Sierra Leone.

As an active and founding member of the African Union Peace and Security Council, Nigeria would like to reiterate its firm support for the Secretary-General's recommendations on the panel's report (S/2008/813), as well as the detailed analysis provided in his latest report. We are not unmindful that, no matter how painstaking the exercise may be, it cannot address all the peacekeeping challenges that have built up on the African continent over the years. We are, however, encouraged that, if genuinely implemented by all stakeholders, the recommendations would indeed lay a solid foundation for viable support to the African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations.

The use of United Nations-assessed funding to support United Nations-authorized African Union peacekeeping operations, and the establishment of a voluntarily funded multi-donor trust fund, canvassed over the years as a panacea for the lingering problems of peacekeeping in Africa, would be of immense assistance. Similarly, there is a need to establish a trust fund for capacity-building, the development of the African Union's logistics capacity, and the establishment of a joint United Nations-African Union team to examine the implementation of the panel's proposals.

While reaffirming the decision of world leaders, as expressed in the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document (General Assembly resolution 60/1), that the development of African peacekeeping capacity should be the central objective of the United Nations in the next decade, Nigeria hopes that today's debate will assist the Council in forging a new consensus and support for the proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report. Once more, we urge the Council to adopt a presidential statement approving the five financing mechanisms that have been proposed to fund African Union peacekeeping operations, with a view to strengthening the African Union's capacity to respond to the ever-growing peacekeeping and security challenges in our region. We look forward to the emergence of a robust and more strategic alliance between the African Union Peace and Security Council and the Security Council, as well as between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission.

The President: I now invite Mr. Antonio to respond to comments and questions raised.

Mr. Antonio (*spoke in French*): Thankfully, there were no questions addressed to the African Union, but I could not leave this Chamber without thanking all the members of the Security Council and all the delegations that have taken the floor to once again show their solidarity with Africa through their support of the African Union. We have taken note of all the concrete proposals that have been made, and I would like to reaffirm the desire of the African Union to live up to its part of the responsibilities.

At this late hour in the debate I would like to underscore in particular Mr. Prodi's remarks at the outset of the meeting, referred to also by some delegations, that the issue of peacekeeping operations is just part of the problem. There is also the need for a comprehensive approach. In many forums, we have analysed the deep causes of conflict in Africa, which we must bear in mind.

We have also spoken a great deal about the need for a capacity-building plan for the African Union. I would like to say here that capacity-building is part of our concerns in the African Union. As the Council knows, the African Union's strategic plan has four principal pillars — peace and security, peace and development, shared values, and the building of capacity in the African Union Commission. Thus,

capacity-building is already a part of our concerns. Everything the African Union needs can fall within the framework of our cooperation with all partners, in particular the United Nations, on capacity-building.

Having said that, I would like to reiterate that the African Union is willing to work with all partners, and in particular the United Nations, on moving forward with these reflections that we have begun today — reflections which only strengthen the need for a multilateral approach to matters regarding Africa.

The President: I thank Mr. Antonio for his clarifications and invite Mr. Le Roy to respond to comments.

Mr. Le Roy (*spoke in French*): I would to address just a few brief words of thanks to all delegations for their support for the report of the Secretary-General (S/2009/470), on support for the United Nations-authorized African Union peacekeeping operations. While not repeating what he said, I think that the framework provided by Mr. Prodi was very significant.

For our part, we remain firmly committed to working with the African Union, and its Commission in particular, to update the Security Council by next April and, by then, to set up the joint United Nations-African Union Commission task force and to restructure our presence in Addis Ababa to be both more logical and more cost-effective, as the representative of Japan also requested.

Finally, as to the last element of our commitment, I have been invited to participate three days hence in the African Union Peace and Security Council summit at the level of heads of State. Of course, I will be present in Abuja in three days. I believe that at that point we will discuss the Sudan and the Mbeki report. This is yet another example of the ongoing strengthened day-to-day cooperation between the African Union Commission and the United Nations Secretariat.

The President: I thank Mr. Le Roy for his clarifications.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council recalls its previous relevant resolutions and statements of its President which underscore the importance of developing effective partnerships between the United Nations and regional organizations, in particular the African Union, in accordance with the United Nations Charter and the relevant statutes of the regional organizations.

"The Security Council reiterates its primary responsibility under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security and recalls that cooperation with regional and subregional organizations in matters relating to the maintenance of international peace and security, and consistent with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, can improve collective security.

"The Security Council welcomes the continuing important efforts and enhanced peacekeeping role of the African Union and its subregional organizations, consistent with Security Council resolutions and decisions, to prevent, mediate and settle conflicts in the African continent.

"The Security Council reaffirms its resolution 1809 (2008), which recognizes the need to enhance the predictability, sustainability and flexibility of financing regional organizations when they undertake peacekeeping under a United Nations mandate.

"The Security Council reiterates that regional organizations have the responsibility to secure human, financial, logistical and other resources for their organizations, including through contributions by their members and support from donors. The Security Council commends the support extended by donors to the African Union Peace and Security Architecture through specific mechanisms, including the African Peace Facility.

"The Security Council recalls the statement of its President (S/PRST/2009/3) in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on practical ways to provide effective support for the African Union when it undertakes peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations that includes a detailed assessment of the recommendations contained in the report of the African Union-United Nations panel (A/63/666-S/2008/813), in particular those on financing, as

well as on the establishment of a joint African Union-United Nations team. The Security Council notes that the aforementioned report is an important contribution towards the overall efforts to enhance the capacity of the African Union in undertaking peacekeeping operations.

"The Security Council notes with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations (A/64/359-S/2009/470).

"The Security Council reiterates the importance of establishing a more effective strategic relationship between the United Nations Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council and between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission. The Council encourages further enhancement of regular interaction, coordination and consultation between the United Nations and the African Union on matters of mutual interest. The Security Council notes the ongoing efforts by the Secretariat and the Commission in this regard.

"The Security Council underlines the importance of expediting the implementation, in close consultation with other international partners, of the 2006 United Nations-African Union Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme for the African Union, mainly focusing on peace and security, in particular the operationalization of the African Union Standby Force and the continental early warning system. The Security Council supports the ongoing efforts to strengthen the African Peace and Security Architecture and reiterates its call for the international community, particularly the donors, to fulfil their commitments as endorsed by the 2005 World Summit Outcome document.

"The Security Council recognizes that, in deploying peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council, the African Union is contributing towards maintenance of international peace and security in a manner consistent with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter.

"The Security Council notes the assessment of the options for financing African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the Security Council outlined in the report of the Secretary-General and expresses its intention to keep all options under consideration.

"The Security Council notes that the African Union needs to enhance its institutional capacity to enable it to effectively plan, manage and deploy peacekeeping operations. The Security Council, in this regard, calls upon the African Union, in the context of developing its Strategic Plan for 2009-2012, to develop a long-term, comprehensive capacity-building road map, in consultation with the United Nations and other international partners.

"The Security Council underlines the need for the United Nations and the African Union to study the lessons learned from the Light and Heavy Support Packages for AMIS, the logistics package for AMISOM, as well as the collaboration under UNAMID and the United Nations Support Office for AMISOM (UNSOA), in close consultation with other international partners.

"The Security Council welcomes the intention of the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission to set up a joint task force on peace and security to review immediate and long-term strategic and operational issues.

"The Security Council requests the Secretary-General to update the Council by 26 April 2010 and submit a progress report no later than 26 October 2010."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2009/26.

There are no further speakers inscribed on my list. The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.30 p.m.

United Nations S/PV.6207

Security Council

Sixty-fourth year

Provisional

6207th meeting

Wednesday, 28 October 2009, 12.55 p.m.

New York

President	Mr. Hoang Chi Trung	(Viet Nam)
Members	Austria	Mr. Lutterotti
	Burkina Faso	Mr. Kafando
	China	Mr. Du Xiaocong
	Costa Rica	Mr. Guillermet
	Croatia	Mr. Skračić
	France	Mr. De Rivière
	Japan	Mr. Takasu
	Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	Mr. Gebreel
	Mexico	Mr. Puente
	Russian Federation	Mr. Dolgov
	Turkey	Mr. Söylemez
	Uganda	Mr. Baitera
	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Mr. Parham
	United States of America	Ms. DiCarlo

Agenda

Peace consolidation in West Africa

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. The final text will be printed in the *Official Records of the Security Council*. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room U-506.

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The meeting was called to order at 12.55 p.m.

Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted.

Peace consolidation in West Africa

The President: The Security Council will now begin its consideration of the item on its agenda. The Council is meeting in accordance with the understanding reached in its prior consultations.

After consultations among members of the Security Council, I have been authorized to make the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council remains deeply concerned by the situation in Guinea, which might pose a risk to regional peace and security following the killings that occurred in Conakry on 28 September, when members of the army opened fire on civilians attending a rally. It strongly condemns the violence that reportedly caused more than 150 deaths and hundreds of wounded and other blatant violations of human rights, including numerous rapes and sexual crimes against women, as well as the arbitrary arrest of peaceful demonstrators and opposition party leaders.

"The Security Council reiterates the need for the national authorities to fight against impunity, bring the perpetrators to justice, uphold the rule of law, including the respect for basic human rights, and release all the individuals who are being denied due process under the law.

"The Security Council welcomes the public statements by the International Contact Group, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union, in particular the communiqué of the African Union Peace and Security Council meeting dated 15 October 2009 and the communiqué of the ECOWAS Summit held on 17 October 2009. It welcomes the mediation undertaken by President Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso, including his efforts to create a more conducive and secure environment in Guinea, and calls upon the international community to support his action.

"The Security Council welcomes the ECOWAS Summit's statement supporting the Secretary-General's decision to establish an international commission of inquiry to investigate the events of 28 September, in order to ascertain the facts that took place, to identify the perpetrators with a view to ensuring that those responsible for violations are held accountable and to make recommendations to him. The Security Council takes note that the authorities of Guinea have officially committed to support the work of the international commission of inquiry in secure conditions.

"The Security Council welcomes further the ECOWAS Summit's statement stressing the importance of the establishment of a new transitional authority that would ensure credible, free and fair elections, of ensuring that the Chairman and members of the National Council for Democracy and Development (CNDD), the Prime Minister and those who hold high office in the new transitional authority will not be candidates in the forthcoming presidential elections and of setting up benchmarks in the transition timetable. The Security Council calls for the elections to be organized as scheduled in 2010.

"The Security Council further recalls in this context its resolution 1888 (2009), in which it urged the Secretary-General, Member States and the heads of regional organizations to take measures to increase the representation of women in mediation processes and decision-making processes with regard to conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

"The Security Council takes note of the decisions by the African Union Peace and Security Council on 17 September and 15 October regarding the imposition of targeted sanctions against the President of the CNDD and other individuals. It also takes note of the decision of ECOWAS to impose an arms embargo on Guinea. It takes note further that the African Union Peace and Security Council will meet at the level of Heads of State on 29 October.

"The Security Council expresses its intention to follow the situation closely. It requests the Secretary-General to update it as appropriate on the situation on the ground, the potential implications for the subregion, the

international investigation of the killings of 28 September 2009 and the measures taken by ECOWAS and by the African Union."

This statement will be issued as a document of the Security Council under the symbol S/PRST/2009/27.

The Security Council has thus concluded the present stage of its consideration of the item on its agenda.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations

Security Council

S/PV.6208

29 October 2009

Original: English

Official communiqué of the 6208th (closed) meeting of the Security Council

Held in private at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 29 October 2009, at 10 a.m.

In accordance with rule 55 of the provisional rules of procedure of the Security Council, the following communiqué was issued through the Secretary-General in place of a verbatim record:

"At its 6208th meeting, held in private on 29 October 2009, the Security Council considered the item entitled 'Briefing by the President of the International Court of Justice'.

"In accordance with the understanding reached in the Council's prior consultations, the President extended an invitation under rule 39 of the Council's provisional rules of procedure to Judge Hisashi Owada, President of the International Court of Justice.

"Members of the Council and Judge Owada had an exchange of views."

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